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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to reduce the number of associated judges in the Superior Court from "at least four" to "at least three"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



14th Death

A 600-foot fall marks 14th death at the Yosemite National Park this year.

NATION...Page 14



Boat Sinks

An overloaded motorboat sinks on the Moscow River, killing nine.

WORLD...Page 16



Juggling Act

Bruno Mars, pop's most dangerous quintuple threat, is accustomed to juggling.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Audit finds multiple violations at CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been found violating many of its own rules and regulations and other statutes, based on the fiscal year 2010 audit conducted by an independent auditor.

The 92-page audit report showed 16 findings, ranging from travel deficiencies and financial misstatements to disputed accounts.

Many of these multiple findings in the agency's financial

See **AUDIT** on Page 4

Regional shark sanctuary OK'd

An area covering over two million square miles of the western Pacific Ocean—two-thirds of the land area of the United States—is slated to become the world's largest shark sanctuary and the first one ever created through a regional agreement among governments.

Leaders at last week's 15th Micronesian Chief Executive Summit in Pohnpei passed a resolution to begin the process of creating a regional sanctuary where shark fishing would

be prohibited. The agreement, which also authorizes the development of a regional ban on the possession, sale and trade of shark fins, covers the waters of

See **REGIONAL** on Page 4

Chamber gets \$16.2K grant for prevailing wage survey

»Fitial administration awaits result of \$40K grant application with US Labor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior approved a \$16,150 technical assistance grant to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to support its ongoing prevailing wage survey, even as the Fitial administration awaits word on its \$40,701.99 grant application with the U.S. Department of Labor, also for the same survey and related work.

Both the Chamber and the Fitial administration previously said they would go ahead with their surveys, with or without federal grants.

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony M. Babauta sent Chamber executive director Richard Pierce a letter last week notifying the Chamber of the grant award.

"This grant provides \$16,150 to fund a 2011 survey

See **CHAMBER** on Page 4



LANGUAGE ARTS CLASS

House Committee on Education chair Rep. Raymond Palacios, back row center, poses with members of the Language Arts Summer Enrichment Program class at Hopwood Junior High School. The congressman was invited to speak to the students about circumstances and events surrounding the "Garrison issue." The Hopwood LASEP class was tasked to write a research paper for their final writing assignment, and many chose to research this topic. This is a class to help students transition from 8th to 9th grade. Others in photo are Jenn Castro, Language Arts teacher, front row left, and Christie Alepuyo, summer intern, second row, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOJ: Aliens with past crimes in the CNMI are deportable. PAGE 3
House OKs debt bill, Giffords brings down House. PAGE 13

Local

Dense vegetation obstructs road in Lower Navy Hill

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A resident of Lower Navy Hill is complaining that the dense and overgrown vegetation along their street poses a danger and safety concern not only for people living in their area but also for passing motorists.

Teddy Guiao, who lives in his residential property along Publiko Drive, said the vegetation has grown so thick that it blocks what used to be a two-way street.

"Now it looks like it's just a one-way street. It certainly blocks the driveway," he told *Saipan Tribune*.



The dense and overgrown vegetation, Guiao said, even obstructs the street signs for Publiko

Drive and Saluda St.

Guiao said the dense and overgrown vegetation is also hazard-

ous since it leads to a deep ravine.

"I just planted some coconut trees just so people will not fall

there," he said.

Because of the vegetation, Guiao said residents and their visitors cannot park their vehicles on the street.

"I know some former tenants along this street who left because of lack of parking space," he added.

Guiao said there have been robbery incidents in their area, with some residents losing the fruits of their planted trees such as bananas, papayas, and betel nut. "I even lost all of my 12 fighting cocks to these thieves," he said.

According to Guiao, the vegetation serves as a hideout for these thieves, making it easier for them to steal.

"A lot of houses for rent in our street have been vacated by tenants because of the situation," said Guiao. "As for myself, I really don't want to leave my house because this area is generally peaceful and we have 24-hour water supply."

Guiao said he already called the Mayor's Office to request for bush cutting services to get rid of the vegetation but was informed that they no longer offer such services.

Guiao was referred to the Marianas Visitors Authority, which he has not called yet.

"I hope they do something about this problem to help the residents in this area," he added.

'Getting everyone's act together is key to NMC's success'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart brought

her message of making the college an "engine of economic growth in the region" to the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday, saying this could only be

achieved if all stakeholders come together and move in the same direction.

As featured speaker for yesterday's meeting, Hart said

that successful community colleges throughout the U.S. mainland "have their act together," which means having legislative appropriations and

the support of the business sector in their communities.

"We've got to make sure that we are very involved in the community and the community

is [coming] together. ... The college needs to be there and to be part of the equation," said Hart, who also pointed out that "a lot of it rests in appropriations."

Although NMC is on probation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Hart said small island institutions such as NMC "have some challenges that I think sometimes are just inherent in the institution or the community you serve."

According to Hart, NMC is currently "moving forward."

"Let me just say if I could that, in my opinion, we are absolutely going in the right direction and that hopefully, by October when we have our next report due and the team coming out, we'll continue to move forward and continue to climb the ladder," she said.

Hart added that they're "hoping to ultimately get out of probation here in just a matter of a couple of months."

She noted that the NMC also needs to do a better job of "selling" the benefits that the island community gets from its only community college.

"We've got to paint a stronger picture of what we are doing, who we are serving, and the economic impact that we have in this region," said the college president.

According to Hart, statistics shows that a student who attends and graduates from a community college has a higher grade point average compared to a student from a big university.

While Hart underlined the need for NMC to provide more options to students, she admits that it "could not be everything to everyone."

"We don't have the resources now, we will never have those resources. But what we can do, we can partner with other institutions to bring [more] programs here. We could also serve as a gateway to help students if they're interested in going elsewhere, we help them in that transition," she said.

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DOJ: Aliens with past crimes in the CNMI are deportable

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Congress clearly intended that aliens who have past crimes in the CNMI would be inadmissible and are thus deportable, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

DOJ's senior litigation counsel Theodore W. Atkinson asserted that the statutory language of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law) reflects Congress' clear intent that the provisions of the Immigration and Naturalization Act would be applied retroactively with respect to aliens in the CNMI.

Atkinson made the argument

on behalf of Immigration and Customs Enforcement official Gerald Zedde and ICE acting supervisor Beth Limerick, who are named respondents by Mariano Angkel Shiano in his petition for writ of habeas corpus.

Zedde and Limerick, through Atkinson, filed a motion to dismiss Shiano's petition.

Shiano, a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia who is a habitual offender, has been declared removable by the Immigration Court.

Shiano is currently in immigration detention at the Department of Corrections under authority of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's ICE after the federal court temporarily

stopped his deportation pending further court order.

Shiano's lawyer, Stephen C. Woodruff, pointed out that Shiano has no criminal history following the May 8, 2008, enactment of the federalization law or the Nov. 28, 2009, extension of the territorial reach of the INA to include the CNMI.

Citing precedent, Woodruff said the U.S. Supreme Court condemned precisely the kind of retroactive application of the law as is involved in Shiano's case.

In response to the petition, Atkinson pointed out that Shiano—who was never admitted to the U.S. under the INA—was deemed an alien seeking application for admis-

sion at the time he was placed in removal proceedings.

"As the immigration judge properly concluded, the act of seeking admission is inherently prospective in nature. Thus, the INA was not applied retroactively to Shiano in any event," Atkinson said.

Second, Atkinson said, even if Shiano were correct that the INA is being applied retroactively with respect to his criminal convictions, Congress intended such retroactive application. He said the language of the statute applying the INA to the CNMI reflects Congress' intent to apply the removal provisions, even for past offenses.

"To interpret the statute oth-

erwise would be to embrace the anomalous result Shiano seeks—a veritable "free pass" for aliens who committed removal offenses but who would escape the immigration consequences of those offenses simply because they occurred before the INA was applied in the CNMI," Atkinson said.

Third, the lawyer said, even if the court determines that the CNRA cannot be construed as reflecting Congress' intent to apply the provisions retroactively, there is nothing impermissibly retroactive about removing Shiano based on his criminal offenses, because Shiano cannot claim that he relied on a "right"

or "benefit" that he is now being deprived of on the basis of his criminal offenses.

"In any event—and this fact proves ultimately fatal to Shiano's retroactivity claim—Shiano's convictions rendered him removable under the law of the NMI prior to the application of the INA," he said.

Atkinson said that Shiano's crimes made him removable at the time he committed them.

Atkinson also pointed out that the U.S. District Court for the NMI lacks jurisdiction over Shiano's challenge to his removal order because he failed to exhaust his administrative remedies.

Man gets 9 days for beating up wife after birthday party

A 57-year-old man accused of beating up his wife and trying to stab her with a knife pleaded guilty in the Superior Court as part of a plea deal.

Lucio O. Yasona pleaded guilty to assault and battery and was sentenced to 364 days in prison, all suspended except for the first nine days, with credit for the nine days he had already served in jail. This means he immediately

goes free.

Yasona was placed on a one-year probation and required to pay a \$100 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, and \$100 probation fee.

In a written order issued last week, Associate Judge Robert C. Naraja ordered Yasona to perform 100 hours of community service and undergo evaluation at the Community Guidance Center for anger management,

alcohol abuse, and any other issues that may be identified by the counselor.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Yasona with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, and two counts of disturbing the peace. In exchange for pleading guilty to assault and battery, the OAG dismissed the remaining charges.

The case stemmed from a July

17, 2010, incident on Saipan, when Yasona allegedly grabbed his wife by the collar of her shirt, attempted to stab her with a knife, and punched her on the chin. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Lawyer wants court to limit dentist's testimony

Dental Care Inc. and its owners have asked the federal court to exclude as evidence allegations of insurance fraud, money laundering, and other issues during the trial of a lawsuit filed against them by their former dentist.

Michael Dotts, lawyer for Dental Care Inc. and its owners, Rodney Steward and Scot Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Dr. Masha Maxim and any of her witnesses to refrain from attempting to introduce as evidence or mention-

ing at any time during the trial allegations of insurance fraud, money laundering, identity theft, and improper distribution of prescription pain medication.

Dotts said that Maxim raised these topics during the taking of her depositions. He pointed out that Maxim showed no evidence supporting any of these topics, and that these topics are not relevant to the issues in this case.

Dotts said that Dental Care is concerned that Maxim will try to inject these topics during her

trial testimony.

"If she is allowed to do so it will be highly prejudicial to Dental Care and will distract the jury from the issues they must decide," Dotts said.

Maxim, a Canadian dentist, is suing Dental Care and its owners for terminating her and for allegedly failing to make good on their promises.

Thompson later filed a counterclaim against Maxim for allegedly assaulting him in the clinic. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Senate panel to call in AG, public auditor on IG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the panel looking into a federal investigation report on a sole-source ARRA management contract plans to call in Attorney General Edward Buckingham and Public Auditor Michael Pai—but not necessarily at the same time.

“The panel want to know what action has been taken or what actions the AG and the public auditor recommend after receiving a copy of the [Interior’s Inspector General] report,” Manglona said.

He said members of the public and the media have been calling the Senate, asking what, if any, the Legislature plans to do with the IG report.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in a separate interview, said yesterday that the Fitial administration cannot stop the Senate from doing its own investigation on the ARRA contract.

Demapan said the investigative report did not say that CNMI ethics and procurement regulations were violated, but only said “may have been violated” or collected evidence suggesting violations.

“While the administration recognizes that the report says

certain ethics provisions may have been violated, at the same time the administration recognizes the report doesn’t exactly pinpoint a violation,” Demapan told reporters in an interview at his office.

Manglona said the idea of hiring an independent attorney to help the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations come up with recommendations on what to do with the IG report has been tossed around, but nothing has been finalized yet.

Demapan said the administration appreciates concerns that ethics violations may have occurred, but the administra-

tion weighed the same concerns against the risk of losing millions of dollars in ARRA money that the CNMI needs.

“Ultimately, at the end of the day, executing the contract was to ensure that the CNMI did not lose out on opportunities that will not be available when the ARRA program expires. The governor had to make a decision on whether we would avail of millions of dollars of funding or risk losing it, having been administered by the CNMI Department of Commerce which at that point in time admitted that they were not ready to administer the program,” Demapan said.

52-pct. plunge in July vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Automotive dealers posted a 52-percent decrease in their July vehicle sales, a month after posting a 3-percent increase.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, in its latest sales report released yesterday, said Joeten Motors, Microl Corp. and Triple “J” Motors sold only 23

new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles in July compared to 48 in the same month last year.

CADA’s July sales were also lower than the previous month’s 35 sold units.

The 23 new vehicles sold between January and July brings the year-to-date vehicle sales to 256, also a 28-percent drop from the prior year.

The automotive industry has

been seeing mostly monthly decreases in sales for years now as a result of a weak economy, with consumers holding on to their dollars or use their money to pay for other things such as power and water bills.

Of the 23 new vehicles sold in July, 14 were from Joeten Motors, six from Microl Corp., and three from Triple “J” Motors.

There were more new SUVs

sold than cars in July. CADA’s SUV sales included two each of Nissan Rogue and Toyota 4 Runner, and one each of Hyundai Tucson, Kia Sportage, Nissan Murano and Nissan Pathfinder.

CADA sold five units each of new cars, vans and trucks.

The new cars sold last month included one unit each of Ford Fiesta, Hyundai Azera, Kia Soul, Mazda3 and Toyota Camry.

Of the five trucks sold, four were Ford Ranger and one was Toyota Tacoma.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

of wages, salaries, and benefits as outlined in your proposal dated July 14, 2011,” Babauta told Pierce in a letter.

Babauta signed the notification of grant award on July 25, a few days after the Chamber started distributing the wage, salaries and

benefits survey forms.

The survey results can be used to establish prevailing wage rate determinations for CNMI employers applying for federal employment visas for existing and future foreign workers.

Babauta noted that the Chamber’s request for the project was \$19,500, which included \$3,350 for indirect costs.

Babauta, who was on Saipan

last month, said the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs does not fund indirect costs, hence the revised award amount of \$16,150.

“We look forward to working with you and your staff to implement this grant,” Babauta told Pierce.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the Chamber “is appreciative of

[Babauta’s] generosity in granting us this award.”

“With this Technical Assistance Program award to conduct the first prevailing wage survey in the CNMI, SCC can make good use of what OIA has outlined in the Guidance for the Design and Implementation of Technical Assistance Program Relating to Immigration in the CNMI,” Brennan said.

This grant is a part of what

Fitial to House: Hold off action on COP lease, Saipan casino bill votes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked the House leadership yesterday to hold off action on both Suwaso Corp.’s proposed 15-year land lease extension for its Coral Ocean Point hotel, and a local casino bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan.

The House and Senate are supposed to have a joint session on Friday to review and consider Suwaso Corp.’s proposed land lease extension, along with South Pacific Lumber’s proposed land lease extensions.

Fitial, who called for a closed-door meeting with the House leadership yesterday afternoon in his office on Capital Hill, told lawmakers he would want to meet first with the Department of Public Lands and the new owners of Suwaso Corp.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), who were both at the closed-door meeting, said the governor did not ask lawmakers to vote against the proposed land lease extension, but to only hold off acting on the

proposal until he meets with the new owners and DPL.

Camacho said Fitial made no mention of Suwaso Corp. until the matter was brought up by Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan).

Torres, for his part, said the governor mentioned his concerns about the previous owners of Coral Ocean Point. The governor publicly said last year that Suwaso Corp.’s land lease won’t be extended when it expires this year because he said the investor “has not lived up to its commitment.”

Fitial was referring to \$4 million in “public contributions” that the previous owner of Coral Ocean Point was supposed to provide the CNMI community when it first proposed to extend its lease.

Coral Ocean Point is a hotel and golf course in southern Saipan. Its owner spent over \$20 million to build a 55-room hotel and develop the golf course and other facilities during the first 12 years of their operations.

On Thursday, the Senate adopted a resolution supporting Suwaso Corp.’s proposed 15-year land lease extension.

AUDIT

From Page 1

statement were cited in previous fiscal year audits but remain unresolved as of fiscal year 2010.

Pursuant to law, all funds received by CUC must be deposited into federally insured or fully collateralized account. The audit finds that CUC maintains an account with a non-insured bank and does not have an existing collateralization policy in place.

CUC, in its response to the audit, indicated that beginning February 2011 it will ensure that the identified account will be in-

sured or collateralized. The audit showed that CUC bank deposits in the amount of \$10.2 million and \$9.5 million in fiscal years 2010 and 2009 were in excess of FDIC insurable limits.

Unreconciled cash accounts with bank balances were also noted in the audit, which CUC vowed to address by hiring an additional accountant to focus on the reconciliation of bank accounts.

The agency also failed to establish and implement internal control procedures to allocate interest earned to customer deposits—a violation of its enabling legislation. CUC agreed

with this finding, saying it has not established a correction action plan to restore the restricted cash balance because of the agency’s financial state.

The report also showed that there are 20 long outstanding disputed accounts totaling \$2.5 million that have not been disconnected by CUC. The utility agency countered that these delinquent customers are landowners on whose properties CUC has placed water wells, utility poles, pumps, and others installations. The auditor pointed out, however, that no contractual agreement exists between the parties regarding any

setup for payment.

CUC, in its response, said all disputed customer accounts involving easements have been referred to outside legal counsel and will proceed through an administrative hearing process, with litigation to follow if necessary.

This same finding was indicated in audit reports for fiscal years 2006 through 2009 but remain unresolved.

Past due customer accounts should also be investigated by CUC, according to the audit, after it found 513 customer accounts whose total overdue balance was \$963,850, none of

which had disputes or promissory notes and have not been disconnected. CUC said all legal attempts will be made to collect these amounts and accounts will be disconnected if they fail to pay.

The same audit report showed unadjusted records in its inventory, uninvoiced receipts, and unreceived invoices.

CUC was also found not doing a physical count of its capital assets in over five years. The agency said this would soon be resolved because CUC’s comptroller and chief accountant, in coordination with division heads, will

will also be discussed in today’s Chamber general membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The Chamber, established in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest business group in the CNMI with nearly 150 members.

It has engaged the services of The Guam Employers Council to manage the wage survey project.

review the utility plant policies and procedures to develop a cycle physical inventory counting procedure.

The auditor also found untimely liquidation of travel advances. CUC vowed to review its travel policies and procedures and ensure that all travel will be in compliance with policies and procedures.

CUC was also found not complying with the reporting requirements for certain federal awards and grants.

The report also indicated unresolved questioned costs in previous audit reports amounting to \$1.2 million.

fect on July 1, 2010. That law, championed by Hawaii State Sen. Clayton Hee, prohibits the sale, possession, or distribution of shark fins and fin products. Hee participated in the Micronesia summit to encourage the chief executives to continue their marine conservation efforts, particularly those focused on the protection of sharks and manta rays.

PACIFIC

From Page 1

the Federated States of Micronesia and its four member states, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“We applaud and support the chief executives for protecting the sharks of Micronesia,” said Matt Rand, director of Global Shark Conservation for the Pew Environment Group, who has worked with Micronesian

leaders this year to develop the resolution and presented at the summit to push for its passage. “Their leadership should serve as a model for other coastal nations to safeguard these important keystone species, which are rapidly disappearing from the world’s oceans, primarily as a result of the escalating demand for shark fins in China and other Asian countries.”

The Micronesian resolution is the most recent and largest example to date of a growing realization that sharks, of which a third of all species are headed toward extinction, are in serious trouble.

Last month, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, a body comprising lawmakers from across the Western and Central Pacific, requested all member nations to “adopt legislation for a unified regional ban prohibiting the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins, rays, and ray parts.”

In June and July, Honduras and the Bahamas joined Palau and the Maldives in creating shark sanctuaries. These nations have come to realize that shark tourism is far more profitable than killing the animals

for their fins. One year later, the Marshall Islands instituted a shark fishing moratorium after reports of unregulated activity in its waters.

“The world must rise with us to protect our oceans and our environment,” said Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau. “That is the moral obligation of this generation for the benefit of the next.”

“This is a great accomplishment for all the advocates of global and regional shark conservation,” said Gov. Benigno Fitial of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

which along with Guam already has banned trade in shark fins. “The protection of sharks will improve our ecosystem. Now we can have balance.”

The Micronesian state of Pohnpei has also taken steps to ban the possession, sale and trade of shark fins within its jurisdiction. “I am very thankful that the region has a common voice on sharks,” said John Ehsa, Governor of Pohnpei. “Our State Government has pending legislation to save sharks, and I am in full support.” The Pohnpei initiative is modeled after Hawaii’s landmark shark fin ban that took ef-

NCDs top priority of new medical director

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Dr. Dan Lamar, the newly appointed public health medical director, has made the prevention of non-communicable diseases his top priority at the hospital.

Describing the NCD rate in the Pacific region as a "pandemic," he pointed out the need to restructure the Public Health Division to become more effective and efficient in addressing issues of non-communicable diseases. The division is now seeking federal grants to aid them in this mission, Lamar added.



Lamar

NCDs are conditions that are not communicated through infection but generally come about due to lifestyles: how people eat, how active they are, and their habits in general. NCDs include diabetes, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease, stroke, gout, arthritis, and depression.

The prevalence of NCDs in the region prompted the Pacific

Island Health Officers Association last year to declare a regional state of health emergency.

In the Commonwealth, Lamar emphasized the urgent need to adopt changes in people's lifestyles to address the spread of these non-communicable diseases. The island culture and some traditional family practices are major factors in the increasing number of affected patients and a major reason for the high mortality rate on the islands.

NCDs, Lamar said, are also prime factors in the increasing number of dialysis patients. The CNMI currently has 150 documented dialysis patients being treated at the hospital and in a private dialysis facility.

Despite the increasing NCD rates, the good news is that "we can do something about it," Lamar said.

He acknowledged the importance of seeking medical treatment for these diseases,

but stressed the vital role of lifestyle adjustments and changes among families and communities. His next plan of action is to help the community adapt to these necessary changes.

"It is true that genetic components play a large role, but what's also true is that lifestyle can override that. How you live is a much more important determinant in general. It's really nurturing that we need to do," he said.

The Department of Public Health earlier reported that 71 percent of adults in the Commonwealth Health Center have diabetes and two out of three medical referrals in the CNMI are for non-communicable diseases.

As medical director, Lamar succeeded Dr. Shirish Balachandra, whose contract was not renewed in January. Lamar has been working in CNMI since the early 1990s. He started at CHC and the Rota Health Center before joining the private medical sector on Saipan. He is a certified internal medicine physician and got his medical license in Oregon.

Route 36 project enters design phase

The Department of Public Works awarded last month to Duenas & Associates the engineering design contract for the construction of Route 36.

Highway manager Nono Bostre said yesterday that the \$704,582 contract, which received the approval of the Federal Highway Administration, was finalized on June 20, with the notice-to-proceed given to the contractor on July 7.

The project, Bostre said, involves the construction of

an almost three-mile, two-lane road from "somewhere in Kingfisher all the way to Bird Island."

"The contractor will prepare the engineering design for the Route 36 project. They will come up with construction plans, documents, everything in order to construct the roadway," Bostre told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Bostre, Duenas & Associates already started surveying the area.

The timeline for the design is approximately eight months.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan, in a separate interview, said the project would also involve the construction of two

separate bridge sections along the route.

"We will also try to improve the viewing area of the Bird Island and try to include it in the project," he added.

While they have already set aside funding for the actual road construction project, Sablan noted that they are "not sure whether or not it's enough."

"We still have to look at the final design," he said.

Road construction projects, Sablan said, typically takes about a year to finish.

"With the bridge sections, it might take longer. But we're moving forward on this project," added Sablan. (Clarissa David)

Bill hiking salary of Rev&Tax director heads to Fitia's desk

A bill raising the salary of the Division of Revenue and Taxation director from up to \$42,000 to a maximum of \$50,000 now heads to the governor.

Senators accepted the House's amendment to Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) Senate Bill 17-51.

That House amendment caps the salary of the Department of Finance's other unclassified division chiefs and special assistants at \$40,800. The exemption is Finance's Revenue and Taxation director who will receive a salary of not more than \$50,000.

Senators and House members have agreed that the low salary has been turning off potential Rev& Tax directors. The position has remained vacant since 2008.

They also said the lack of a director has been affecting the enforcement of poker regulations and delays in the release of tax refunds and rebates. (Haidée V. Eugenio)

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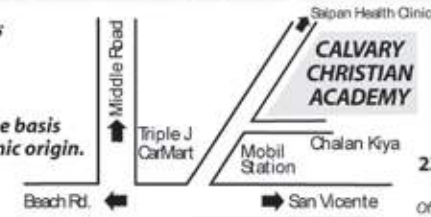
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AON to offer two \$50,000 hole-in-one prizes for TOC



Winning a \$50,000 hole-in-one prize would be a dream come true for any golfer. Thanks to AON, golfers at this year's Tournament of Champions will have two opportunities. A hole-in-one on Hole No. 7 on the West course or Hole No. 11 on the East can bring \$50,000 to the TOC golfer who hits the hole on the first shot.

"AON continues to be committed to supporting what TOC does in our community," said AON Insurance regional director Rod Rankin. "It is important to

us to continue to assist in making our island a beautiful place for our tourists to visit, and our residents to enjoy every day."

Over the last 15 years, TOC has given over \$500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has most recently been used to improve the tree-lined traffic medians in Chalan Piao, Dandan and Susupe. Funds were also used for the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway. Proceeds from this year's TOC will assist

in the repair of the Mt. Topochau stairways, railings, and the leveling of the area.

"We are very pleased to have AON partner with us once again for the Tournament of Champions. We are able to make a difference because of companies like AON who continue to support our efforts," said Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director.

Platinum sponsor Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort will host the 16th Annual Tournament of Champions on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 6 and 7. Show time is 6am and shotgun start is 7am. Registration fee is \$175 for two days



AON employees pose with TOC tournament director Ben Babauta.

of golf and the banquet immediately following the tournament.

For more information or to register, call 236-2511, or visit the

TOC website at www.tocsaipan.com. (TOC)

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Registration open for Pacifica arts exhibit

Registration is now ongoing for the annual Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit, which will open next month at the Lobby Function Room (formerly R&C Tours office) of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Angel S. Hocog, executive director for the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, said the monthlong exhibit will have an opening ceremony on Sept. 1 at 9am.

The Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit will run the entire month of September and will be free of charge to the public from 10am to 7pm, Mon-

day to Friday, and 10am to 2pm on Saturday. It will be closed on Sunday and during holidays.

Hocog said the exhibit is one of the three major exhibits organized by the Arts Council. The other two are the women's exhibit in March and Christmas exhibit in December.

According to Hocog, the exhibit is part of the CNMI-wide celebration of Cultural Heritage Month every September.

"The Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit will highlight traditional and modern arts and crafts from our brilliant artists. There will also

be live demonstrations of artwork and craft making," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Because of the diversity of the island community, Hocog noted that the exhibit is open to all artists, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, and background. "We don't want to close our doors to different ethnic communities on island," he added.

He encouraged all artists and art collectors to register for the exhibit for free at the Arts Council office in Capitol Hill from 8:30am to 4:30pm until Aug. 19.

For more information, call 322-9982 or 83. (Clarissa David)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs



In celebration of
YOUTH LEADERSHIP MONTH
and
Division of Youth Services'
30th Year Anniversary

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Saturday, August 13, 2011
Garapan Basketball Court
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TOYOTA



Support Meeting for Cancer Survivors & Caregivers

All people facing cancer, their family members, and other caregivers are invited to the next monthly support meeting

**On Thursday, August 4, 2011 at
Fiesta Resort, starting at 5:30pm.**

This month's support meeting will begin with a presentation by the Division of Public Health's new Medical Director, Dr. Daniel Lamar. Dr. Lamar oversees the CNMI's public health programs, including those related to the screening, prevention, and control of cancer and other chronic, non-communicable diseases. He will provide an overview of his plans for these programs, and updates on the development of the CNMI's new healthcare corporation. His presentation will be followed by break-out discussions in two groups: survivors and caregivers.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org, or call the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728.

This ad is brought to you by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

NMC set to offer same programs in fall semester

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart said yesterday that the institution will make no changes in the academic programs and courses that will be offered to students this fall 2011 semester, mainly because it is still addressing its accreditation status.

However, she told *Saipan Tribune* that they are looking into expanding the non-credit areas to help fulfill the needs of the local business sector on island. Non-credit areas are programs that provide trainings and workshops to specific groups to help them develop their skills. Expansion of these non-credit programs, Hart said, is allowed by the accreditation commission.

Because NMC receive local tax dollars, Hart believes the college has the responsibility to meet the critical workforce needs of the local industry. Partnering with the business community, she added, is key to achieving this goal.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs.

Hart disclosed that NMC, which is currently working on having its probation status lifted, cannot introduce new programs until it fully addresses the commission's concerns. The institution is expected to resolve the deficiencies cited by the commission in its report due on Oct. 15.

Academic courses and services will also remain suspended for both Tinian and Rota instructional sites during the probation period, she added.

The Board of Regents was recently informed of an expected decline in the fall 2011 enrolment numbers due to a significant number of students who had asked for the release of their transcripts and other records to off-island universities and colleges.

Hart told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, although they have yet to know the exact enrollment numbers because registration will only start on Aug. 15, she intends to change the registration period in the future.

Instead of the traditional one-week registration period before the opening of classes each semester, Hart wants a three- to four-month advanced enrollment schedule for future semesters.

This way, she said, the college can come up with a clear projection and will aid students in making sure that desired classes and programs will be offered.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 3, 1999

CUC asked to write off gov't debts

The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday broached a proposal to ask the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to write off portion of the \$6.8 million in unpaid utility bills that the government has accumulated over the past six months. CUC should make retroactive the forthcoming power rate reduction for the government to lessen the burden of the Tenorio administration in raising funds to settle the bills, according to Rep. Karl T. Reyes. The rate adjustment from the present 20 cents per kilowatt-hour to 16 cents, which is the same rate offered to commercial users, is scheduled to take effect by late this month—a move that utility officials said is intended to help the cash-strapped government and wean CUC away from heavy subsidy.

Amendment to Marine Sovereignty Act nixed

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has disapproved a legislation seeking amendment to the Marine Sovereignty Act of 1980 to allow a federal court to rule on whether the Northern Marianas has rights on surrounding submerged lands and territorial waters. Two lawsuits are pending with the U.S. district court dealing with the marine sovereignty and control over the 200-mile exclusive economic zone around the islands. Tenorio believed the island government should wait for a court ruling first before amending existing laws to set the borders of the Commonwealth.

Aug. 3, 2000

NMI needs crop insurance program

Federal crop insurance program should be extended to the CNMI in order to boost growth of the local agriculture industry, which has suffered since World War II, according to Rep. William S. Torres. The legislator, who has initiated steps to develop the farm sector in recent months, urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the possibility of implementing the federal program in the Commonwealth. He asked in particular August Schumacher, USDA's undersecretary of Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service, to implement such program for local farmers and ranchers.

Pepero chides Cohen over 902 talks failure

Expressing regret over resignation of President Clinton's special representative to CNMI-U.S. consultation talks, the islands' chief negotiator, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, yesterday refuted alleged failure by both parties to iron out differences on labor and immigration issues. He said the talks, guaranteed under Section 902 of the Covenant, have "progressed" despite the comments made by Edward B. Cohen on the contentious issues when he resigned from the post. "I respect his view and he just also has to respect our view which is that we look at the matter as a joint effort, a partnership," Mr. Sablan told reporters in an interview. He stressed that the talks involve mutual understanding where the two governments can meet halfway to reach an agreement on issues on the table.

Aug. 3, 2001

'No shady deals in biddings'

The Division of Procurement and Supply yesterday said it does not engage in shady deals where some public officials involved in the procurement for government contracts may unjustly enrich themselves through "under-the-table" commissions from favored bidders. Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan made the statement as a Senate committee sought for an investigation on the procurement process for CIP projects as an offshoot of recent bidding protests. "I have no knowledge of that. I have never seen any of that," said Robert Florian, executive assistant of Sablan, speaking in behalf of Procurement and Supply. "When people (are) comfortable to protest, this 'means (that) things are not pre-determined,'" explains Florian, referring to bidding results.

PSS receives \$270K for youth centers

Freshly-awarded federal dollars will enable the Public School System to convert its campuses into community learning centers after regular school hours. Through a \$270,000 US Americorps grant, PSS can now push through with plans to institute a Family Resource Youth Learning Center within the year. PSS Federal Programs Officer Bill Matson said the funds will allow each public school to have its own youth center where students can spend extra time engaging in after-school activities. Matson, who arrived from Washington DC to attend the annual National Center for Education Statistics meeting last week, disclosed that PSS was able to obtain additional money from Americorps from the original \$190,000 grant application to the current \$270,000 grant award.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-11-049

INSTALLATION OF SEWER SERVICE LINES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the installation of Sewer Service Lines in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists in general of the installation of sewer service lines to existing CUC sewer mains. When CUC customers are approved for sewer service, the contractor will obtain the required permits and connect them to the existing sewer mains. The work will include the sewer service line, sewer saddles, asphalt repairs, septic tank abandonment. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract or when the funds are exhausted.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$ 100.00 (nonrefundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-11-049, Installation of Sewer Service Lines**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 1, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 19, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net, Commander, Kenneth Esplin-Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

CNMI resident brings cheers to 3 young cancer survivors

By ANGEL DEMAPAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

For Francisco Palacios, life was always about giving back to the community. A resident of Saipan, Palacios left the islands many years ago when he responded to the nation's call to duty. With his deep love for freedom and liberty, Palacios remained on active duty until he became eligible for full military retirement a couple of years ago.

Although retired from the military, Palacios never retired from volunteering. He still actively participates in numerous California organizations such as the Bay Area Food Drive and makes monthly contributions to the Kidney Foundation and Children's Research Hospitals.

Then, a little less than a year ago, Palacios found himself in Honolulu and took it upon himself to visit several patients under the CNMI medical referral program. During one of those visits, Palacios had the opportunity to meet three resilient teenagers from the CNMI who continue to battle the challenges of cancer day in and day out. Palacios was awed by the zeal for life he saw in young Calvin, Erickson and Kuuipo even as they underwent chemotherapy treatment.

He spent some time getting to know the three teenagers and the challenges they have faced being away from their homeland for well over a year already. Palacios was moved by the common

challenge the two young men and young lady shared in common: communicating with family back home. The three shared how their communications to their loved ones were limited because of the costs associated with making long distance calls. Palacios left the hospital that day with this common obstacle lingering in his mind.

Thereafter, Palacios felt the need to find a solution for the teenagers. He enlisted the assistance of Bruce Jobe from the Honolulu Elks Lodge (the Elks support a variety of charities, programs and scholarships), Shane Fivella and Saipan resident Shirley Santos. Together, they launched their Summer Cancer Drive Event of 2011 through the Facebook social network. Through their efforts, donations started to trickle in from CNMI residents now living in Texas, Las Vegas and Seattle. A generous amount of assistance came through from family and friends in the Honolulu area as well.

From the proceeds of the drive, Palacios and his group were able to bring cheers to the young teenagers in a luncheon gathering at Magic Island - Ala Moana Beach Park this past July 17th where they presented Kuuipo with a laptop computer to help her communicate more frequently via the internet with her family back home. Calvin and Erickson each received \$300 cash to defray the costs of purchasing long distance calling cards and school supplies for

the upcoming school year.

For Francisco Palacios, it is the spirit of gratification that pushes him to give back whenever possible. He simply stated, "It is gratifying to know that compassion is a great asset in life. Through our words and actions, we can help each other overcome challenges to make the world a better place."

Angel A. Demapan currently serves as the Administration's press secretary. However, he served as Medical Referral Coordinator for the Marianas Hawaii Medical Referral Office from 2006-2010, during which Calvin, Erickson and Kuuipo began undergoing cancer treatment.



Shirley Santos
Francisco Palacios, fifth from left, joins three CNMI teenagers Kuuipo, Calvin and Erickson (center) and their families following the presentation of gifts to help them communicate with their families in the CNMI while they undergo cancer treatment in Hawaii.

Ebisuya accountant is arrested for alleged theft

Police arrested on Monday an accountant of Ebisuya Restaurant in Susupe for allegedly using the company's money to buy two cell phones and making the company pay for their monthly bills since last year.

Maricel C. Gatdula, 33, was arrested for theft over the alleged unlawful use of the company's money, amounting to \$2,076.59.

At yesterday's hearing, Gatdula was allowed to post a \$100 cash bail and a \$900 unsecured or appearance bond. She was ordered to stay away from Ebisuya Restaurant and its owner, Yasuhiro Ueno.

Gatdula will be arraigned on Aug. 15 at 9am.

Rosemond Santos served as counsel for Gatdula. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal represented the government.

Detective Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that Ueno reported to police Thursday a theft incident at his restaurant.

Bauleong said that Ueno showed many company checks and other documents indicating that their accountant, Gatdula, made an unauthorized purchase of two cell phones in January 2010 under the company's name, Island Supply International Inc.

The detective said the docu-

ments also showed that Gatdula had been using the company money to pay for the phones' monthly bills.

Bauleong said that during her interview on Monday, Gatdula admitted buying the two cell phones without written or verbal authorization from Ueno.

Gatdula also allegedly confessed to using the company to pay for the monthly bills incurred from the two phones, without Ueno's authorization as well.

The detective said the \$2,076.59 that was unlawfully used may vary, pending inventory that will be conducted by Ueno's company. (Ferdie de la Torre)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday greetings to the greatest husband, father, and friend, Richard Angel Santos! Greetings come from your wife, kids, families, and extended WIC families!

16th ANNUAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

August 6th and 7th, LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort

Show Time: 6:00am • Shotgun Start: 7:00am
Registration Fee: \$175 for both days
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ONE YEAR OF FREE GOLF

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Deport-only immigration solutions are no solution at all

Few things can make a law-abiding citizen angrier than reading about a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant. Regardless of where you stand in the illegal immigration debate, there's no justification for allowing serious lawbreakers to remain in this country.

That's why U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and cooperating local law enforcement agencies deserve credit for a significant spike in criminal deportations. According to The Associated Press, ICE deported nearly 393,000 people in fiscal 2010, roughly half of whom were deemed criminals. Most had committed drug crimes or were caught driving drunk.

It's the other, non-criminal half that is drawing fire, even though President Barack Obama describes two-thirds of them as having been caught at the border or deemed repeat immigration violators. Critics say the administration is being too aggressive against illegal immigrants, and Rep. Luis Guterrez, D-III., was arrested this week outside the White House during a pro-immigration demonstration.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino is threatening to withdraw from ICE's Secure Communities program, in which police share data with federal authorities to identify illegal immigrants. The fear, Menino and others say, is that local police may be using any enforcement pretext to sweep out as many illegal immigrants as possible — not just serious criminals.

"A guy steals a car, they do the fingerprints, send it to Washington, have the person deported. That's not the Boston I want. I want Boston to be a city that welcomes immigrants," he told reporters.

This newspaper doesn't think any city should welcome illegal immigrants. The question is how far is too far when the popular mandate is to get tough. Last month, Texas lawmakers correctly rejected a proposal that tried to go too far in expanding police immigration enforcement powers and punish so-called sanctuary cities.

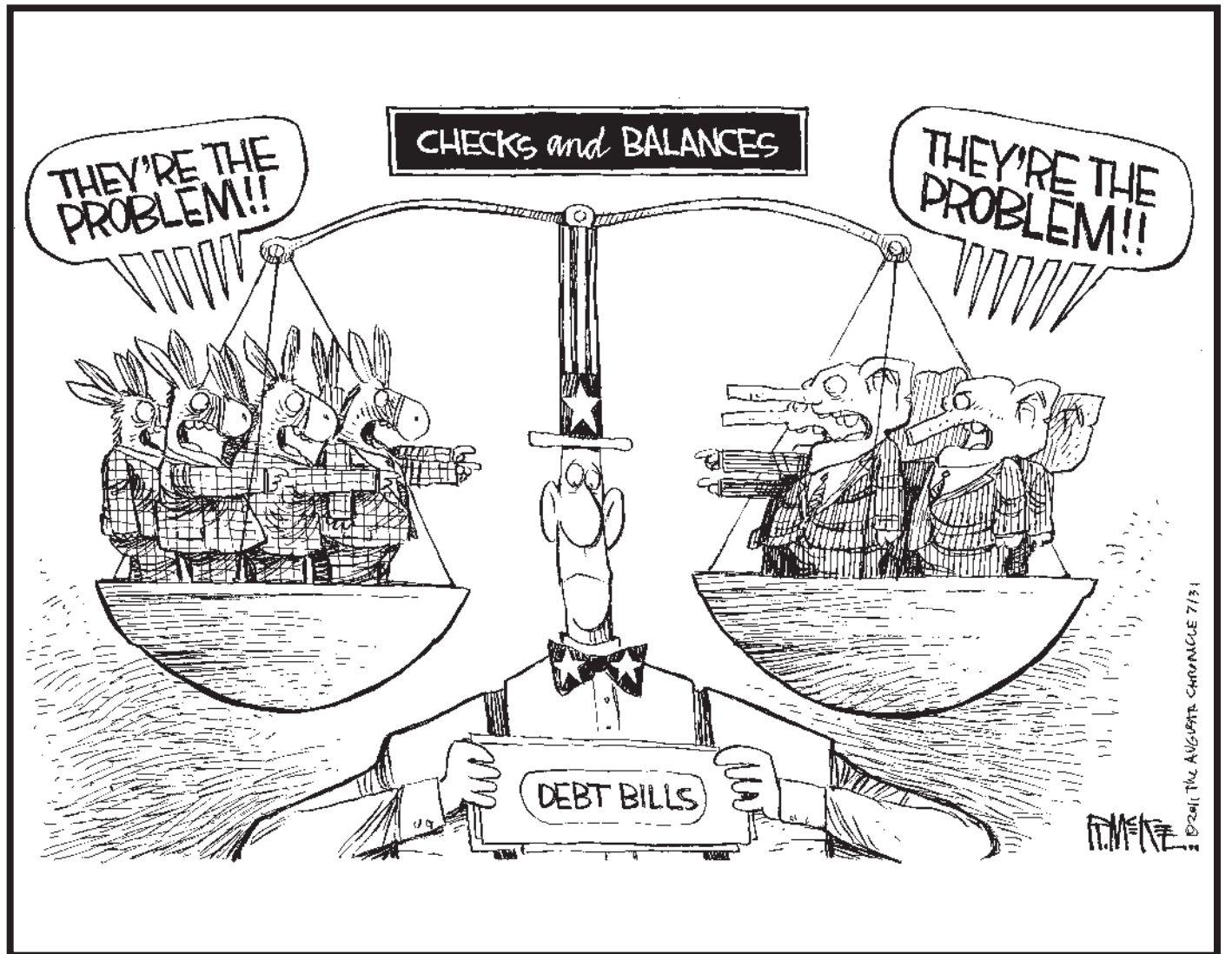
Secure Communities has undergone adjustments to reduce overzealous enforcement. Further adjustments may be necessary to ensure that non-criminal immigrants, such as victims or witnesses, aren't deported simply because they tried to help police nab a criminal.

We favor a balanced approach that includes participation in Secure Communities to convey a consistent, unified message: The only way to migrate is the legal way. The net should be strengthened at the border, in cities and in the workplace.

But that's not enough. The U.S. also must offer realistic hopes for those taking the legal route. A responsive visa system must help applicants get the permits they need quickly. Employers must have assurances that a large pool of legal migrant workers will be available to meet their demands for cheap labor.

The missing ingredient is comprehensive immigration reform. Until Congress gets serious about it, deportation-based enforcement programs will only chip away at the problem while continuing to draw fire from the likes of Menino and Gutierrez.

(c) 2011, The Dallas Morning News



J'aime la vie voyages

We will be crooning to Willie Nelson's *On the Road Again* the next three weeks as we throw caution to the wind, max the plastic once more to fly out half-way across the planet, traverse the N.A. continent, at once, on a voyage and a pilgrimage.

We are giving ourselves a 66-year birthday present to visit 91-year-old Mama in Oahu, a child in Honolulu, Oakland and Chicago, a conference in old alma mater SMU Dallas before returning to the winds of *Sa-i-pan* to catch my breath and by the end of the month, teach English songs to oral language learners in *Dong Bei China*.

It really does not make sense to head back to the Marianas reefs on our way to Manchuria from the North American continent when one can fly directly across the northern route but we bought two tickets, and though both airlines are in the same Alliance, foregoing Honolulu, Guam, and Saipan on the return on our way to China requires additional fare in spite of it being a much shorter distance. Go figure!

My relationship to French, BTW, is similar to what I teach my ChEnglish students. The point is to communicate, and only secondarily, to polish syntax. My *Pinay* neighbor has become clear that being apologetic of her *Taglish* (Tagalog-English) will not make her better understood in the market. Her Chinese veggie sellers and taxi drivers can get by with their fumbled handling of William and Kate's pillow talk, so why should she even bother? Which is to say that if you are wondering where I dug up the phrase in the title, wonder no more. I made it up. (It literally translates as, "I love life voyages." See what I mean? Not the clearest of constructs but, hey, if you do not get the point, you're last century.)

Nonetheless, you are welcome to wander with me in space, outer and inner. Our geo-wandering in the next three weeks will cover 10 time zones, but the inner space will be as wide as you can accommodate my meanderings plus one, and as deep as you can withstand the intensity of our occasional psychic dives into the Serena trench depths of our Marianas soul, with our without the volcanic eruptions.

Between now and the end of the month, we will be making a series of *Olomwaay* (our way of making our gracious exit out of the Trench to our new pedagogical incarnation in the northeast plains of Zhongguo) to persons and personages who enriched our life in the 12 years of our sojourn in the land of Maria Anna. (Not to be partial to our Carolinian bro/sisters but we will forego calling on the divine mercy of Olympic Zeus prominent in the Chamorro words of gratitude — *Yu'us* = Deus, *Maase* = merciful in Malay; we could use our own *Salamat Po* since its cognate of *Salaam*, "tranquil," is of ancient origin, but Marianas cousins tend to brand Pinoys when we do that as just showing off again!)

So, we will just slide back to the old TY that has since become a favored texting symbol for gratitude. The next series of reflections

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



will then include "Thank You" to readers and detractors alike, as we leave.

Gratitude is in fact a way of recognizing presence. We do not thank what does not exist, though our moralistic society often fall into thanking us for not doing what we "ought" not to do. Nothingness (nirvana), of course, is everything-ness in the Buddhist tradition and my current host has this all encompassing *Taiji*, more familiar to us as the yin-yang.

Historically, Taoism embraced the totality of existence, especially its physicality, while Buddhism saw that our symbols and metaphors of existence are all but mirages, and that what we perceive to be existence is an illusion. Attaining this stillness in nothingness is perceived as attaining the nothingness state of the Buddha.

The *Taiji* took the physical world and the spirit world, not separating the two but keeping them complementary of one another, drew a larger circle around both, the pivot point of the swirling dance between body and soul becoming the apex of human existence.

Now, if the reader thinks I am waxing metaphysical here, we probably are but in the sense of one of our early friends on island, the gregarious and affable Jesuit prelate Gary Bradley, S.J., who was wont to say: "We are religious, but are we spiritual?"

Yesterday is no more, and tomorrow is yet to come. We only have today, and that is the locus of the here-and-now, the point of eternity of every human existence. And as one of those platitudes circulating in the Internet that has crossed our screen one-too-many-times, "We are all of the same age: one day older than yesterday, one day younger than tomorrow, and as young as we are today."

The point is, "thank you" is about accepting the presence of our showed-up-ness, and if we are unconscious of it, or try to erase what-has-been, or escape from consequent what-will-be, we are neither present nor alive today!

So our pilgrimage will not only be in space, but also in time, as we recall the past 12 years of expending our being in the Marianas, inviting those who care, and most definitely, those who dare, to undertake a similar voyage and pilgrimage this summer on the sunny and rainy contents of our lives' journeys. Bon voyage!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In support of COP lease renewal

The request for renewal of Coral Ocean Point's lease for another 15 years is now before the CNMI Legislature for review. The resort has been purchased by a new group of investors whose plans include improving the current facility and retaining a healthy number of local employees to its team.

But foremost and central for the CNMI in this and other investments is the revival of confidence and trust in investing in the islands. Would the CNMI ably substitute the loss of about \$5 billion to \$7 billion that was drained from the local economy when investment pioneers from Japan pulled out of the islands in the mid-'90s? How would this be achieved? Do we engage in proactive encouragement or send it reeling in political gamesmanship to our detriment?

It's a tough query to resolve methodically given the lack of sanctioned socio-economic goals in mind. Such self-inflicted inadequacy and dilemma leaves most folks here quizzing if economic hardship at the pits is something they have to endure for a prolonged period of time.

Indeed, we've heard of the saying "The tide waits for no man." It simply means that this is the season to begin rebuilding the economic foundation of the CNMI and it begins right here and now. The courage of a new set of investors who are risking all their lifetime savings to assist the CNMI in wealth and jobs creation is most commendable and I have nothing short of admiration for donning the attitude of "anchor" investors. In turn, they will be our lifetime partners standing side-by-side to improve the CNMI as the best tropical destination anywhere in Asia and the Pacific.

Revenue generation and innovation begins in private industries. It never begins at the government level. That the CNMI is literally bankrupt makes the case a principled-based decision over political gamesmanship.

Now is the time to confidently reinstitute certainty and stability in the investment climate of the CNMI. We owe posterity their economic freedom. We can revive investment to the level we once knew. It begins with the abundance mindset that we would create wealth and jobs the direct beneficiaries being our people. Yes, we

can begin rebuilding the economic foundation of the CNMI. If I may reiterate: The tide waits for no man. Let's begin today!

Culture of submission backfires

Customarily, disagreements in Chamorro instantly translate into the dissenting person becoming the perceptual or real enemy. In other words, there's hardly any room for healthy discussion. Not in this culture. Disagreements aren't points for further discussion. In fact, it becomes the end of any and all discussions even friendship! Woe! I ought to know. I come from this culture!

Coupled with the language barrier, there's the compounding inability to separate people from issues. Of course, this takes the personal maturation process. In the meantime, a disagreement leads to the use of la kodu (brawl) over la rason (reason). We try to make sense of it usually after a vicious brawl that severs relationships. It's even nastier if the dissenting view is non-indigenous. It is here where we spout bigoted bilge until we run out of expletives and satanic names.

Yes, I've spent time painstakingly probing the evolution of such seemingly adolescent behavior. But we've been victims of submission pounded into our heads by our elderly in an effort to instill respect and decorum. Thus, the lack of free discussion to learn and refine the art of free expression. The bottled-up sentiment tightens in the chest like gaseous material seeking relief. When we finally express ourselves, it's often explosive, unsavory, and humiliating in most cases. Somehow, getting physical is the penultimate way to resolving differences.

I've heard explosive exchanges among siblings, friends, and relatives. It reminds me of a joke about a friend who once said that when his wife gets pissed "she gets historical rather than hysterical." Not to mention the lack of focus from most local folks we run into daily. In the case of our people, it's both historical and hysterical in most tango when disagreements emerge. And it gets nasty when alcohol is part of the equation.

It gets nastier when we run into statesiders who instantly impose

really don't need to schedule 20 campus visits, for example. After the first three or four they all start to seem alike. I'd also suggest skipping the \$300 essay writing lessons; most schools work on that in senior English classes. And while I've talked to people who found ACT or SAT prep courses to be productive, paying to take the test half a dozen times seems like an expensive exercise in wishful thinking.

By this time the class of 2011 has pretty much made its college choices, and the class of 2012 is a long way from deadline, so I'll skip over the decision itself, except to advise parents against steering a student toward a particular campus because it's located somewhere you think would be a cool place to visit.

Thanks to the Internet and social networking, it is now possible to learn quite a bit about one's assigned roommate before heading to campus. In some ways this is unfortunate. I know a girl who was dumped by a prospective roommate on the basis of a Google search and a few email conversations.

Nearly every kid is going to Google his or her roommate and look for high school activities and the like. But that doesn't mean the parent has to follow suit. And spying on the roomie's house on an Internet map site is probably crossing the line.

While it's advisable for parents to take a back seat throughout most of the admissions and enrollment process, packing is one area in which it pays to be assertive. My son was pretty sure he could sail

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



their whitish attitude. You may disagree, but it pays to take a step back and employ listening, learning, and understanding your host. If you don't like their MOs, that's too bad. You're here and must do like the famous adage, "When in Rome do as the Romans do." I'm not saying don't say your piece or that you should acquiesce corruption, but find a less than in-your-face way of saying "you're screwed" or use what they taught us in business school, "How to say no with a smile?"

But there's the healthy shift to embracing civil and educated discussions. I saw this pleasantry among college students at NMC in several classes where I was invited to join a group discussion relating to Article 12 and other issues. It was very humbling, hearing reasoned discussion with civility from minds. At least I now can take comfort in the fact there's hope in the permanent shift to looking at issues on their merits premised on a set of factual data. I mean they were quick with the use of "initial apprehension, judgment and reason" throughout most of the discussion.

I've learned, as a veteran journalist, the pain of breaking the customary shell of submission. I quit counting how many times my mom chased me around the old kitchen table with her broom for "telling it like it is" involving next of kin. She wanted a son who's sure-footed but quiet and submissive. I had to tell her, sorry, not this young radical who questions issues not to rabble rouse, but in search of the truth! Of course, she also advised that there are things best left unsaid. I couldn't agree more, but not on matters of state. I will never compromise on it! And it's the only sure ticket to strengthening and refining our democratic institutions.

through a Chicago winter in a hoodie. I was the one who got the coat and boots into the car. He thanked me later.

On the other hand, there's no need to go overboard. Stores these days are stocked with college dorm specials, mostly items the kids will never use. Shoe racks, for instance. And intricate containers in which to store supplies. Hint: If your student mostly used the floor for storage at home, things won't be any different at school.

You'll probably find on move-in day that schools are intent on corralling parents into receptions and the like, to give students their space. They have their reasons. Parents, aim for a dignified departure. If you're driving home, I'd suggest listening to a captivating audiobook. Things can get mighty quiet in the car.

The thing we have to keep in mind throughout the process is this: It's about the kids, not the parents. Left to their own devices, most students will do just fine.

Having done my part in the quest for parental reassurance, I shall now return to mulling over my newest fear: That in three short years my son will become one of the 85 percent of college grads who move back in with their parents.

Barbara Shelly is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at bshelly@kcstar.com.

Repeat after me: It's about kids, not parents

By **BARBARA SHELLY**
KANSAS CITY STAR

Let's start by acknowledging that there's no such thing as a universal college experience. Going away to school is different from living at home and attending community college, which is not the same as getting your degree through night classes and online correspondence courses.

Yet a prevailing image of "college-bound" remains the family minivan stuffed to the brim with the sum of an incoming freshman's worldly possessions. It's a rite of passage typically preceded and followed by a fair amount of anxiety, most of it originating with the parents.

As an observer of college trends and the mother of a soon-to-be college sophomore, I have a few tips to pass along to parents. I'll start at the beginning and work my way up to moving day, which for many families is fast approaching.

First and foremost, remember that college is a step in life's journey, not the ultimate destination. It is not necessary to base every family decision, including preschool selection, on how it will affect a university application. There are thousands of colleges out there, and almost all of them offer great experiences.

College costs are out of control, and that's a subject for a separate column or two, but you can save some money before you get there. You

Letters to the Editor

The missing half of the news

This is a reply to a letter from Mr. Jack O. Romolor. I am a retired pastor and master teacher. I spend considerable time reading newspapers, such as the Saipan Tribune, and watching various news channels on TV. I have discovered that The New York Times and CNN give out about 45 percent of the news. All of it is changed to make Republicans look bad. An example—you wrote that President Bush and the Republicans didn't care how they spent the American budget and drove the country into a ditch. You should remember that 9-11 totally disrupted American business because the twin towers housed America's business center. Also, President Bush had to fight two wars and create the vast homeland security all across America.

With the above in mind, let me share with you a poll of spending that came out this week as our government struggles to stop our government from defaulting. This is the spending by presidents:

- Bill Clinton: \$550,000 per day
- George Bush: \$1.2 trillion per day

■ Barack Obama: \$4.5 trillion per day

A note from an economist: Obama's debt is more than all of the presidents from George Washington to George Bush.

How does Obama spend so much money? He recently gave the IMF \$150 million for Greece to bail them out again just about a year after the last bailout. Another example is Brazil. I spent the month of February in Brazil doing missionary work. The new president in Brazil is a communist. After taking office she more than doubled her salary and doubled the salary of the ruling cabinet. Then they cut minimum wage for the working public. The new president called this a great presidential victory. The next morning the street was full of police cars in Recife where I was staying. Across the street, a young, 22-year-old man jumped from the 12th story balcony to his death on the concrete below. His mother told police he was unable to earn enough money to live. Mr. Obama on a recent visit gave the president of Brazil \$45 million to drill oil offshore—even though

Brazil is energy independent and selling oil to China.

May I suggest that you watch Fox News; they give all of the news and they give both sides of each argument! If you cannot get Fox News on TV, go online at foxnews.com and you will be amazed because you will get more than double the news you get on CNN. The only thing you will miss are those little side stories CNN runs when they don't want to show you all of the news.

Franklin Keiper

Mayer, Arizona

Apology and gratitude

A formal apology and gratitude is in order to the Honorable Mayor Donald G. Flores and his field crew, who in a concerted effort with Rep. Ray S. Basa, made the road repair project at the Kannat Tabla Drive possible. Again, thank you all for your efforts.






Frank C. Deleon Guerrero

Former Kannat Tabla resident

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼78

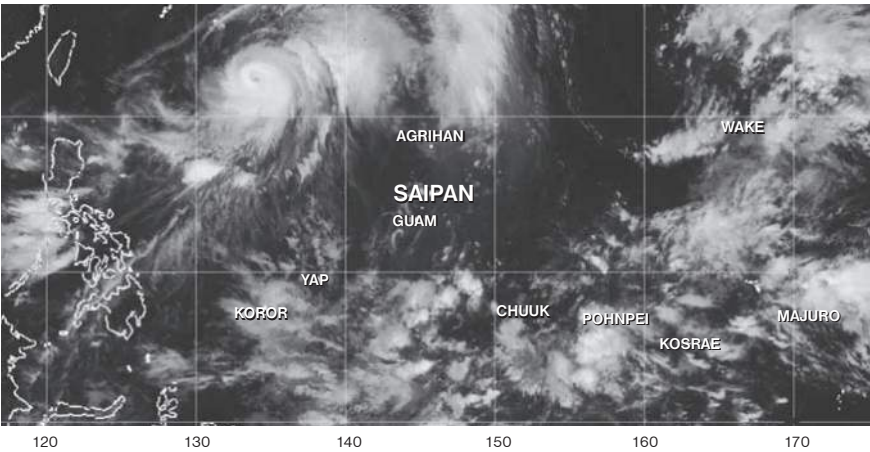
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲57 ▼47
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼68
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86 ▼75
London	Showers	▲72 ▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼80
New York	Showers	▲80 ▼69
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼62
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲85 ▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲86 ▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94 ▼74

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
9:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
10:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Muifa (11W) is centered well north of Koror near 23N134E moving north at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 190 miles of the storm center. For more information on Typhoon Muifa, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM or bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Converging southeast winds northeast of Muifa are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of the Marianas within 150 miles of a line from 22N142E to 25N139E and within 100 miles of a line from 21N149E to 25N149E. A surface trough extends east-southeastward from east of Yap at 9N143E to a weak circulation centered west of Chuuk near 7N147E then stretches east-northeastward to end near 8N156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between the equator and 9N from 134E to 149E and within 150 miles of a line 4N151E to 4N156E to 7N158E. This includes Koror and Pohnpei but is just south of Yap and Chuuk. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae and the Marshall Islands north of Majuro within an area bounded by a line from 5N162E to 16N163E to 15N170E to 11N180 to 4N180 back to 5N162E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 18N163E to a weak circulation centered north of Wake Island near 22N166E then stretches eastward to end near 23N173E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island near 24N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Wake Island within 80 miles of a line from 18N161E to 19N173E and farther north north of a line from 24N163E to 19N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:02 AM	9:19 PM
Thursday	10:01 AM	10:04 PM
Friday	11:00 AM	10:52 PM
Saturday	11:59 AM	11:42 PM
Sunday	1:00 PM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2011

DELTA AIRLINES

DL288/287	12:45am	6:05am	NRT/SPN/NRT	Daily
DL298/297	3:00pm	4:35pm	NRT/SPN/NRT	Daily

ASIANA AIRLINES

OZ605/606	1:40am	2:50am	ICN/SPN/ICN	Daily
OZ120/119	2:20am	4:00am	KIX/SPN/KIX	Daily
OZ603/604	2:30pm	3:30pm	ICN/SPN/ICN,	2, 4, 6, 7,
OZ6033/6043	2:40pm	3:40pm	ICN/SPN/ICN	3,
OZ6033/6043	1:50pm	2:50pm	ICN/SPN/ICN	7,
OZ1087/1077	2:30am	4:30am	NRT/SPN/NRT	6, 5, 1,
OZ1087/1077	2:30am	4:30am	NRT/SPN/NRT	2, 4,
OZ1613/1623	1:40am	4:40am	HIJ/SPN.HIJ	5, 1

*HIJ-HIROSHIMA INT'L AIRPORT

SICHUAN AIRLINES

3U8645/8646	3:00am	4:20am	CAN/SPN/CAN	2, 6,
3U8647/8648	5:00am	6:10am	PVG/SPN/PVG	1, 5,

CAPE AIR

C09316/9317	3:35am	4:25am	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 2, 3, 4, 6,
C09314/9315	3:55am	4:25am	GUM/ROP/SPN/ ROP/GUM	1, 5,
C09596/9313	7:50am	8:30am	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 1, 2, 4, 5,
C09596/9313	7:25am	7:55am	GUM/SPN/GUM	3, 6,
C09600/9601	10:55am	12:10pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 1, 4, 5,
C09600/9603	10:55am	3:05pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	2,
C09602/9603	2:30pm	3:05pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 1, 4, 5,
C09604/9605	6:00pm	6:35pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	Daily
C09606/9599	9:00pm	9:35pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	Daily

FREEDOM AIR

FL100/200	8:50am	9:30am	GUM/ROP/SPN/ ROP/GUM	Daily
FL300/400	6:20pm	6:55pm	GUM/ROP/SPN/ ROP/GUM	Daily

FREEDOM AIR

FP101/102	6:45am	7:15am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL103/104	7:30am	8:00am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL105/106	8:00am	8:30am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL107/108	8:40am	9:10am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL109/110	9:10am	10:10am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL111/112	10:45am	11:15am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL113/114	11:40am	12:10pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL115/116	1:00pm	1:40pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL117/118	2:30pm	3:00pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL119/120	4:00pm	4:30pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL121/122	4:40pm	5:10pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL123/124	5:40pm	6:15pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL125	6:30pm		SPN/TIQ	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

House OKs debt bill, Giffords brings down House

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Crisis legislation to yank the nation past the threat of a historic financial default sped through the House Monday night, breaking weeks of deadlock. The rare moment of cooperation turned celebratory when Rep. Gabrielle Giffords strode in for the first time since she was shot in the head nearly seven months ago.

The vote was 269-161, a scant day ahead of the deadline for action. But all eyes were on Giffords, who drew thunderous applause as she walked into the House chamber unannounced and cast her vote in favor of the bill.

A final Senate sign-off for the measure is virtually assured on Tuesday. Aside from raising the debt limit, the bill would slice federal spending by at least \$2.1 trillion, and perhaps much more.

"If the bill were presented to the president, he would sign it," the White House said, an understatement of enormous proportions.



In this image from House Television, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., center, appears on the floor of the House of Representatives Monday, Aug. 1, 2011, in Washington.

After months of fierce struggle, the House's top Republican and Democratic leaders swung behind the bill, ratifying a deal sealed Sunday night with a phone call from House Speaker John Boehner to President Barack Obama.

Many Republicans contended the bill still would cut too little from federal spending; many Democrats said much too much. Still, Republican law-

makers supported the compromise, 174-66, while Democrats split, 95-95.

"The legislation will solve this debt crisis and help get the American people back to work," Boehner said at a news conference a few hours before the vote.

The Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, was far less effusive. "I'm not happy with it, but I'm proud of some of the accomplishments in it. That's why I'm voting for it."

So, too, many of the first-term Republicans whose election in 2010 handed the GOP control of the House and set the federal government on a new, more conservative course.

"It's about time that Congress come together and figure out a way to live within our means," said one of them, Sean Duffy of Wisconsin. "This bill is going to start that process although it doesn't go far enough."

The measure would cut federal spending by at least \$2.1

Experts say US could still lose its AAA debt rating

NEW YORK (AP)—Even if Congress approves a deal to raise the federal government's debt ceiling, the U.S. could still lose its coveted AAA debt rating sometime in the next six months, largely because the proposed agreement does not cut enough spending.

The three main ratings agencies declined to comment Monday on the prospect of future downgrades. But the agencies, along with economists and analysts, have signaled that doubts about the nation's debt will persist.

Moody's Investors Services has said it will probably rate the U.S. debt as AAA for now but with a negative outlook—a rating that indicates a possible downgrade yet to come.

Fitch Ratings has indicated the deficit must be reduced to a "more sustainable level" for the U.S. to maintain its AAA rating. And Standard & Poor's has said any deal to raise the debt ceiling must cut at least \$4 trillion from future budget

deficits or the rating will probably be lowered to AA.

The proposal crafted by Obama and congressional leaders cuts only about half that amount, which led at least one expert to suggest that S&P could still downgrade the rating as early as next month.

"The details (of the deal) don't look as pretty as the headlines," said Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott.

Ratings agencies probably won't look favorably on the fact that most of the spending cuts in the current plan won't be made until after 2013, LeBas said.

"That means you're waiting longer to do the saving, and you would have accumulated more debt," LeBas said. And if the deal is passed, but only by a slim margin, it might indicate to the rating agencies that lawmakers "will reverse or water down the measures" in the future. Both could be the catalyst for a downgrade, he said.

trillion over a decade—and possibly considerably more—and would not require tax increases. The U.S. debt limit would rise by at least \$2.1 trillion, tiding the Treasury over through the 2012 elections.

Without legislation in place by the end of Tuesday, the Treasury would run out of cash needed to pay all its bills. Administration officials say a default would ensue that would severely damage the economy.

Beyond merely avoiding disaster, Obama and congressional leaders hoped their extraordinary accord would reassure investors at home and around the world, preserve the United States' Aaa credit rating and begin to slow the growth in America's soaring debt. In a roller-coaster day on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average surged, then sank

and finally finished down for a seventh straight session but only slightly.

After months of suspense, Monday night's vote was anticlimactic.

Not so the moment when Giffords' presence became known.

She greeted some fellow lawmakers who crowded around her and blew kisses to others, beaming the whole while. Her hair was dark and close cropped and she wore glasses—nothing like the image America had of her six months ago when she was shot while greeting constituents outside a supermarket in Tucson.

She did not speak with reporters.

As for the legislation, after months of wrangling over a deal, there was little time left for lawmakers to decide how to vote.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ford to recall 1.1M pickup for gas tank problem

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ford is recalling more than a million pickup trucks because their gas tanks can fall off and cause fires. The recall, announced Monday, covers 1.1 million F-150, F-250 and Lincoln Blackwood pickups. The models involved were sold in cold-weather states where road salt can cause straps metal straps holding up the tanks to rust. If the straps break, the tanks can hit the ground, rupture and catch fire. Regulators began investigating the problem back in September. The defect has been blamed for eight fires, three of which spread to the rest of the truck.

Senate plan to end FAA shutdown falls apart

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans late Monday blocked a bipartisan Senate plan to end the partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration, making it increasingly likely Congress will be unable to resolve the legislative standoff before September. The Democratic-controlled Senate and the Republican-controlled House are at odds over proposals to cut rural air service subsidies and to change a federal labor rule to make it more difficult for airline workers to unionize. Unable to resolve

their differences, the FAA's operating authority was allowed to expire at midnight on July 22.

Delta to refund taxes paid for travel during FAA shutdown

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines said Monday it will process tax refunds for customers traveling during the suspension of non-essential services of the Federal Aviation Administration. Funding for the FAA expired on July 23. At that time, Delta stopped collecting several taxes imposed on ticket sales, including a 7.5 percent tax on the base ticket price, a \$3.70 segment tax and facilities taxes on international travel and travel to and from Alaska and Hawaii. The Internal Revenue Service has advised that travelers who paid for tickets on or before July 22, 2011, for travel beginning on or after July 23 and prior to the reinstatement of FAA funding, may be entitled to a refund of those taxes. Delta is awaiting guidelines from the IRS on the process of providing refunds. However, in order to streamline the process, the airline will process refunds directly for customers once an agreement is reached with the IRS on the procedure for doing so. Information on how to apply for a refund will be posted to delta.com. (PRNewswire)

Who got what in debt deal

President Barack Obama and congressional leaders agreed on a deal to raise the federal debt limit that includes sharp spending cuts but no new taxes.

Democrats wanted

- Debt ceiling increase to pay bills through 2012
- No cuts to Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security benefits
- Cuts to military spending if domestic programs were cut
- Tax increases for upper-income earners

Republicans wanted

- Spending cuts to match debt-ceiling increase dollar for dollar
- No tax increase
- Limited cuts to defense
- Entitlement reform
- Congressional vote on a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution

Democrats got

- A debt-limit increase of \$2.4 trillion in three stages
- Increase gives borrowing power to pay bills through 2012

A 12-member bipartisan congressional committee will find up to additional \$1.5 trillion in cuts; may consider tax reform and entitlement changes

- If committee's recommendations are not adopted, half of spending cuts would come from defense; no cuts to Social Security or Medicaid

Republicans got

- No tax increases
- Immediate \$917 billion in cuts
- Congress to vote by end of year on balanced budget amendment

Debt deal winners?

President Obama

Avoids being the first president to preside over default by getting a debt-limit increase; some say he gave up too much on Democratic priorities with compromise

Speaker John Boehner

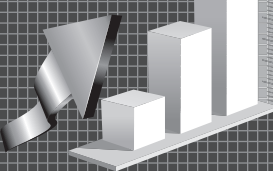
Praised for negotiating ability and forced spending cuts; struggled to control the Republican majority and final deal isn't as conservative as original plan



Source: Reuters, AP, The New York Times, MCT Photo Service

Graphic: Melina Yingling

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

12,132.50
-10.75
-0.09%

S&P

1,286.94
-5.34
-0.41%

NASDAQ

2,744.61
-11.77
-0.43%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9150
British Pound	0.6128
Canadian Dollar	0.9562
Chinese Yuan	6.4391
Euro	0.7015

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7927
Indian Rupee	44.2350
Indonesian Rupiah	8,462.50
Japanese Yen	77.4350
Malaysian Ringgit	2.9278
New Zealand Dollar	1.1409

Philippine Peso	42.0800
Singapore Dollar	1.2034
South Korean Won	1,048.345
Swiss Franc	0.7819
Taiwan Dollar	28.8490
Thailand Baht	29.6415

Nation

Coverage with no copay extended to birth control

WASHINGTON (AP)—A half-century after the advent of the pill, the Obama administration on Monday ushered in a change in women's health care potentially as transformative: coverage of birth control as prevention, with no copays.

Services ranging from breast pumps for new mothers to counseling on domestic violence were also included in the broad expansion of women's preventive care under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Since birth control is the most common drug prescribed to women, health plans should make sure it's readily available, said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "Not doing it would be like not covering flu shots," she said.

Officials said the women's prevention package will be available Jan. 1, 2013, in most cases, resulting in a slight overall increase in premiums. Tens of millions of women are expected to benefit initially, a number that is likely to grow with time. At first, some plans may be exempt due to an arcane provision of the health care law known as the "grandfather" clause. But those plans could face pressure from their members to include the new coverage.

Earlier requirements under the health care law improved preventive coverage generally for people of both sexes.

Social and religious and religious conservatives objected to the birth control mandate, saying a conscience exception unveiled by the administration is insufficient.

Sebelius acted after a near-unanimous recommendation last month from a panel of experts at the prestigious Institute of Medicine, which advises the government. Panel chairwoman Linda Rosenstock, dean of public health at the University of California, Los Angeles, said that prevention of unin-

tended pregnancies is essential for the psychological, emotional and physical health of women.

"Over a span of generations from grandmothers to granddaughters, we have come from birth control being a hope and a wish—and almost luck—to being recognized as a part of health care that improves women's health," said Cynthia Pearson of the National Women's Health Network, an advocacy group supporting the change.

Some public health experts predicted the change will promote the use of costlier long-acting contraceptives, such as hormonal implants. More reli-

able than the pill, they are gaining popularity in other economically advanced countries.

As recently as the 1990s, many health insurance plans didn't even cover birth control. Protests, court cases, and new state laws led to dramatic changes. Today, almost all plans cover prescription contraceptives—with varying copays. Medicaid, the health care program for low-income people, also covers birth control.

A government study last summer found that birth control use is virtually universal in the United States. Still, about half of all pregnancies are unplanned. Many are among women using some form of contraception, and forgetting to take the pill is a major reason.



Sebelius

ACROSS THE NATION

Ted Bundy's DNA to be added to national database

MIAMI (AP)—A vial of Ted Bundy's blood has been found in Florida and investigators will use the newly discovered evidence to try to solve cases that went cold decades ago. Before he was executed in 1989, Bundy confessed to more than 30 murders and was suspected of many more. A complete DNA profile couldn't be developed for the serial killer until the blood was found. The full profile will be uploaded to the FBI's national database Friday, giving authorities key evidence to possibly link Bundy to long-unsolved crimes. The vial was discovered after Florida authorities received a call from a detective working a cold case in Tacoma, Wash. The blood had been taken in 1978 when Bundy was arrested in the death of a 12-year-old girl in Columbia County, Fla.

Missing NH girl's body found in river near home

STEWARTSTOWN, N.H. (AP)—The body of an 11-year-old New Hampshire girl who disappeared almost a week ago was discovered Monday in a river less than half a mile from her home, and authorities said they considered her death suspicious. Celina Cass was reported missing July 26. New Hampshire and Game divers found her body late Monday morning near a hydroelectric dam that spans the Connecticut River between her hometown of Stewartstown and Canaan, Vt., Senior Assistant Attorney General Jane Young said. It was recovered from the river Monday evening. Authorities had said that Celina, who lived with her older sister, mother and stepfather, was last seen at her home computer around 9 p.m. on July 25 and was gone the next morning.

Lawyer: NC nursing home shooter addled by pills

CARTHAGE, N.C. (AP)—Robert Stewart walked the halls of a North Carolina nursing home, his lawyer said Monday, firing blasts from a shotgun seemingly at random, stopping to grab shells from a shoulder bag every time he needed to reload. When it was

over, eight people—mostly elderly residents—were dead, and three wounded. But whether the 47-year-old painter and National Guard veteran was fully responsible for his actions will be the main question in Stewart's trial, which began Monday in Carthage. With an eye toward keeping him off death row, his lawyers are arguing that a series of personal calamities and a cocktail of prescription medication put Stewart in a mental state in which he hardly knew where he was that day in March 2009.

Fla lifeguard who hit sunbather lacked training

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Officials say a lifeguard who ran over a sunbather while driving a Beach Patrol pickup truck along Daytona Beach did not take a required driving course. Volusia County spokesman Dave Byron said on Monday that 21-year-old Thomas Moderie was given a driving-safety manual but didn't take the 16-hour beach-driving course. Florida Highway Patrol reports 33-year-old Erin Michelle Joynt, of Wichita, Kan., was sunbathing Sunday morning when she was run over. She was in stable condition at a hospital Monday. Byron says Moderie was headed to investigate broken glass on the shore when he struck Joynt. This is the third time in the last year a Volusia County beach employee has run over a sunbather.

FBI investigates tip that dead man is D.B. Cooper

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI is investigating whether a dead man in the Pacific Northwest is D.B. Cooper, who hijacked a passenger jet in 1971 over Washington state and parachuted with \$200,000 in ransom. Cooper has never been found. FBI agent Fred Gutt said Monday the bureau is following up a "credible" lead in the unsolved case and is focused on a suspect who died more than 10 years ago. Gutt said the bureau received a tip from a retired law enforcement source about the dead man possibly being Cooper. FBI agents requested personal effects of the possible suspect, who died of natural causes.

600-foot fall marks 14th Yosemite death this year

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)—A woman slipped to her death Sunday while descending Half Dome in the rain, the latest accident at Yosemite National Park in a year that is breaking records for the deadliest in recent history.

Fourteen people have died so far this year, including three who were swept over Vernal Fall two weeks ago while taking photographs upstream in the Merced River. In 2007, seven people were killed at the park, the most in any recent year until this one.

One factor in the high number of deaths is a record snowfall that has created treacherous snowmelt, swelling streams and rivers at a time of year when nature in Yosemite is supposed to be relatively tranquil.

For Haley LaFlamme, 26, it likely was the unseasonable rain that brewed on the day her group of four secured a rare permit to ascend the enormous, smooth granite dome, the park's iconic feature. They were among a group of about 20 hikers who were braving the trip to the summit despite the wet conditions, slippery granite and distant lightning and thunder.

The permits limit traffic on the popular 8.5-mile climb. LaFlamme was using the cables



In this July 23, 2011 photo provided by the National Park Service, visitors are seen climbing Half Dome via cables in Yosemite National Park, Calif.

that park officials install during the hiking season to help with the steep and sometimes slippery footing up the final pitch of

the granite dome.

At about 11 a.m. people in the park began to send messages on Twitter about a raging thunder storm with rain. At noon, Yosemite's emergency communication center received a 911 call reporting a hiker had fallen at the bottom of the cables, where the granite trail becomes less steep and the cables end. Cobb says LaFlamme fell 600 feet from the shoulder. She was dead at the scene.

Between 2006 and 2010, 38 people died in the park and 1,225 had to be rescued at a cost of more than \$3 million. Nearly 4 million people visit the park every year.

Most of those who get themselves in trouble in Yosemite are day hikers who are unprepared for the challenges and changing conditions of the wilderness, according to Search and Rescue records at Yosemite.

By far the single biggest age group of people who get into trouble is young adults ages 20 to 29, records show. The second largest: those over 60.

The allure of the park's treacherous features combined with a population of tourists more accustomed to Disneyland than the great outdoors can contribute to a false sense of security.

Hawaii girl finds message in a bottle from Oregon

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP)—A 10-year-old Oregon boy scribbled a note on binder paper, stuck it into a bottle and tossed it into the ocean. A year later and 2,000 miles away, a 9-year-old girl exploring a Hawaii shoreline found the bottle floating in a tide pool.

Since then, the two children have been exchanging emails and plan to become pen pals, West Hawaii Today (<http://bit.ly/mU6TEI>) reported Monday. Thomas Craig, now 11, of Sil-

verton Ore., told the newspaper he hadn't thought much about his message in the bottle he threw into Winchester Bay during a family fishing trip until he recently received an email from Trinity Ballesteros, of Kailua-Kona. "I couldn't believe someone had found it. I was shocked," he said. "When I threw it overboard, it hit the top of my grandpa's boat so I thought it broke and sank. The chances of someone finding it seemed like a once-in-a-million type thing."

Trinity was beachcombing along the shore in front of the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center in Kailua-Kona when she spotted the old fashioned-looking bottle. "My first thought was what if someone is really in trouble and they're sending out an SOS," she said. "Would I even be able to help? Were they lost at sea or stuck on a deserted island? Were they even in Hawaii?"

Surrounded by friends and family, Trinity opened the bottle

and found the letter, which read, "Dear finder of my message, My name is Thomas and I live in Oregon. I'm ten years old and this week I'm salmon fishing deep in the ocean. I would like to hear from you."

Thomas asked for a response and included his mother's email address. Because the email address was difficult to make out, Trinity, with help from her grandfather and parents, sent a message to several different email addresses about two weeks ago.

Asia

Afghan official: 3 dead in suicide bomb at hotel

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle outside a small hotel frequented by foreigners just

after dawn Tuesday, killing at least three guards in the latest of a rising number of violent attacks in northern Afghanistan.

After the attacker detonated his cache of explosives, two other militants stormed inside the hotel in Kunduz city and en-

gaged police in a two-hour gun-battle, said Mubobullah Sayedi, a provincial spokesman.

"When the bomber blew himself up, the explosion shook everything," Sayedi said. "It broke glass everywhere."

Three hotel guards were killed and 10 other people, including an Afghan policeman, were wounded, he said. Foreigners staying at the two-story hotel escaped through the rear of the building, he said. The inn burned and several nearby buildings were damaged.

"We heard a very big explosion that shook all of Kunduz," said Ahmadullah, a 30-year-old shopkeeper in Kunduz, who lives about 10 yards (meters) from the building. "It was a very strong explosion."

Ahmadullah, who uses just one name, said he and his family quickly ran out of the neighborhood to a relative's house nearby. Worried that they were still too close to the fighting, they moved even farther away to seek protection in another relative's house.

"All my children were so scared," he said. "We have never been so close to a suicide bombing."

Fighting has been focused in southern and eastern Afghanistan, but insurgents have been conduct-

ing a rising number of attacks in the once-peaceful north.

Late last month, a vehicle carrying the deputy governor of Kunduz province struck a roadside bomb, injuring three of his bodyguards. In June, a bombing at a bazaar in the province killed at least 10 people. Also in June, three policemen were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself outside a mosque and another bomber hit a German NATO convoy, killing three civilians.

In May, a suicide bomber infiltrated a high-level meeting in neighboring Takhar province and killed northern Afghanistan's top police commander, Gen. Mohammed Daoud, provincial police chief Shah Jehan Noori and two German soldiers. The Ger-

man NATO commander in northern Afghanistan was wounded.

Late last year, a suicide bomber killed Kunduz Governor Mohammed Omar and 15 other people at a mosque in neighboring Takhar province.

On Monday, the governor of a province in northeastern Afghanistan claimed that an airstrike conducted by the U.S.-led coalition killed four police officers at a checkpoint in the remote, mountainous region. Jamaluddin Badar said the strike took place late Sunday in the Wama district of Nuristan province, a lawless, rugged area near the border with Pakistan. He said coalition forces detained 12 police officers following the airstrike.



THAI PRIME MINISTER-TO-BE

AP
Thai prime minister-to-be Yingluck Shinawatra arrives at Parliament in Bangkok, Thailand, Monday, Aug. 1, 2011. Thailand's Crown Prince opened a new Parliament on Monday that will usher in a new government led by the sister of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Lawmakers dressed in white uniforms attended the ceremony at a royal hall led by Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn. The 500-seat lower house convened yesterday morning and elected the House Speaker and two deputies. Thaksin's youngest sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, is expected to be elected prime minister by early next week.

Gadhafi official urges Filipinos to come to Libya

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A visiting Libyan official urged Filipino workers Monday to return to Libya, saying its capital was peaceful and violence was confined to rebel-controlled areas.

Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said the Philippines is maintaining its policy not to deploy workers there.

NATO airstrikes have hit Tripoli and other targets in the five-month operation to enforce a no-fly zone and protect civilians, but there is a semblance of normalcy in the capital as shops remain open and residents go about normal daily routines.

Abdulhadi Lahweej, Libya's

undersecretary for expatriates, immigrants and refugee affairs, met with Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario during which he assured him of the safety of Filipinos in Libya.

About 14,000 Filipinos were evacuated from the country in March, shortly after the rebellion began in mid-February. Those who remain are mostly medical workers.

The United States and about a dozen other countries recognize the rebels as Libya's legitimate government. The Philippines is among nations that still recognize the longstanding regime of

Moammar Gadhafi.

"We continue to recognize the Libyan government as manifested by the presence of our embassy in Tripoli, which continues to serve over 2,000 of our overseas Filipino workers who remain in Libya," del Rosario said.

About 10 percent of the Philippines' population of 94 million people work abroad. They send home billions of dollars that boost the economy, and the government holds their welfare as a top priority.

Lahweej told a news conference his government is taking



Lahweej

care of Filipinos who have remained there "and we are now calling those who left to get back to Libya."

The front-lines of the fighting are miles beyond Libya's capital, but airstrikes rattle the city almost daily. The government alleges the airstrikes have caused many civilian deaths, but there is little evidence of it. Readily visible in Tripoli, however, are the effects of the foreign workers' exodus: uncollected trash, shuttered businesses and abandoned construction projects.

Lahweej said he is visiting various countries to explain the "true story of the Libyan rebellion."

Japan: NKorea seeks new missile, China navy active

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea is developing a new mid-range ballistic missile that could reach as far as the U.S. territory of Guam, Japan's Defense Ministry said in an annual report released Tuesday.

Japan is also concerned with China's increasing naval activity in the waters surrounding its shores and is taking measures to bolster its coastal defenses, the report said.

The North Korean missile called the Musudan is based on Russian technology acquired in the 1990s and is designed for launch from mobile platforms, the ministry said in its 2011 white paper. Tuesday's report was the first time Japan has officially mentioned the missile by name.

According to the report, the missile would have an estimated range of 1,500-2,500 miles (2,500-4,000 kilometers). Guam is about 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) from North Korea.

That is less than the multi-stage Taepodong-2 missile, which is believed capable of reaching the U.S. west coast. But it would put the 50,000

U.S. troops based in Japan and thousands more on the island of Guam within its potential reach, the report said.

"Because of the secretive nature of the North Korean regime, it is extremely difficult to confirm its military intentions," the report said, adding that the North's mobile and underground missile facilities are believed to be intended to make early detection more difficult.

The report did not say when Japan expected the missile to be operational, or whether it already is.

Experts have long speculated that North Korea was working on a new intermediate-range missile. A missile believed to be a Musudan was displayed in a North Korean military parade last October.

Regarding China, Tokyo continues to be concerned by exercises held in the Pacific and in waters surrounding Japan, a concern it said has been heightened by what it called China's long-standing failure to provide data that would reassure the world of the peaceful intentions of its rapid military modernization.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb at market in India's remote northeast kills 5

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police say a bombing in a busy market in India's remote and violence-racked northeast has killed five people and wounded four others. Police official Balram Singh said Monday's explosion took place in Sangakpham Bazaar in Imphal. That's the capital of Manipur state. He said the bomb was placed on a motor scooter. No group has so far claimed responsibility for

the blast. At least 17 separatist groups are active in Manipur state and often stage hit-and-run attacks.

Canadian sailor rescued off Australian coast

SYDNEY (AP)—A Canadian sailor was rescued off the coast of southwest Australia on Tuesday after his boat broke apart in rough seas, a maritime official said. Paul Lim, 62, ran into trouble when the engine on his yacht broke away as he battled 32-foot (10-meter) waves and

winds of 30 miles (50 kilometers) per hour in the Southern Ocean, said a spokeswoman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Lim activated the emergency beacon on his 30-foot (9.5-meter) craft on Monday and waited for help in the stormy seas, about 140 nautical miles southwest of Cape Leeuwin on Australia's southwestern tip. A search-and-rescue helicopter dropped a radio and an extra life raft to Lim and rescue officials sent out a broadcast to ships in the

area for help.

Prosecutor: 5 SKoreans arrested over espionage

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean prosecutor says officials have arrested five South Koreans on suspicions of spying for North Korea. Prosecutor Lee Jin-han said Monday the five are suspected of forming an underground organization to supply military secrets and other information to North Korea's so-called "225" spy department. Lee said a

48-year-old South Korean businessman surnamed Kim met with North Korean agents in China a number of times since the mid-1990s. Two of the others arrested were former political party members. Lee would not divulge more about the suspects. Conviction under South Korea's National Security Law can be punishable by death.

Afghan governor: NATO airstrike kills 4

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—

The governor of a province in northeastern Afghanistan said Monday a NATO airstrike killed four police officers at a checkpoint in the remote, mountainous region. Jamaluddin Badar said the strike took place late Sunday in the Wama district of Nuristan province, a lawless, rugged area near the border with Pakistan. He said coalition forces detained 12 police officers following the airstrike. NATO said it was aware of the reports of a friendly fire incident and is investigating.

World

Syrian troops attack Hama for second day

BEIRUT (AP)—Anti-government protesters in the Syrian city of Hama set up barricades and took up sticks and stones to defend themselves Monday after

one of the bloodiest days so far in the regime's campaign to quell an uprising now in its fifth month.

The protesters vowed not to allow a repeat of 1982, when

thousands of people were killed in Hama after President Bashar Assad's father ordered a massacre.

As evening fell, residents

said Syrian tanks resumed intense shelling of the restive city and troops fired machine guns at worshippers about to head to mosques for special nighttime

prayers on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Residents had just broken their daily dawn-to-dusk fast, and the shelling appeared aimed at preventing the mosque gatherings, fearing they would trigger large anti-government protests.

It was the second day of shelling of Hama and other cities. In attacks earlier in the day, four people were killed in Hama and three more were killed in other parts of the country, residents and rights groups said.

"It's a crime! Where is the world? Why doesn't anyone see?" cried one distraught resident through the phone, the sound of gunfire heard clearly in the background. The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said they were certain there were casualties, but there was no immediate word on numbers.

The current crackdown ap-

pears aimed at preventing protests from swelling during Ramadan. Muslims throng mosques during Ramadan for the special nightly prayers after breaking their daytime fast. The gatherings could then turn into large protests throughout the country.

Sunday's violence left 74 people dead throughout the country, 55 of them from Hama and neighboring villages, according to a statement issued by six Syrian rights groups.

The attacks drew harsh rebukes from the U.S. and Europe, which expanded its sanctions against Syria, imposing asset freezes and travel bans against five more military and government officials Monday.

"We find these violent attempts by the Syrian regime to target civilians on the eve of Ramadan to be despicable and abhorrent," said U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner.

Egyptian forces clear activists from Tahrir Square

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian forces swinging electrified batons and shouting the battle cry "God is great" swiftly chased off dozens of activists Monday who had refused to end four weeks of renewed protests at Tahrir Square to pressure the country's transitional military rulers.

Hundreds of riot police backed by armored vehicles and soldiers moved in to tear down the camp of dozens of tents after a group of holdout activists—some of them rela-

tives of people killed in the uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak in February—refused pleas over loudspeakers to go home. Some in the crowd hurled stones at the police.

Firing shots in the air and using clubs, Egyptian forces cleared the square within minutes.

With Mubarak's trial on charges he ordered the killing of protesters due to start Wednesday, the ruling military council appeared to run out of patience

with the protesters, whose key demand is to see the former president and other members of his regime face justice.

Still, some were surprised by the security sweep, especially as it came on the first day of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting that is traditionally a time of forgiveness and tolerance.

"Attacking the families of martyrs and the people protecting them in the square seems weird. I didn't think this could happen on the first day of Ramadan," said

activist Omar Kamel.

Many see the trial of the 83-year old president as a key test for the tense relationship between the protest movement and the ruling generals who took over when Mubarak was forced out on Feb. 11 after nearly 30 years in power. Many activists are skeptical that a military council headed by Mubarak's longtime defense minister can deliver on promises of democratic reforms before returning the country to civilian rule.

9 killed when boat hits barge on Moscow River

MOSCOW (AP)—An overloaded motor boat crashed into a docked barge on the Moscow River in pre-dawn darkness Sunday, killing nine of the 16 people on board, officials said. The other seven passengers swam to safety or were rescued as the boat quickly sank.

Vladimir Markin, the spokesman for the main investigative agency, laid the blame on the owner and captain of the boat, who was among those killed.

Markin said the owner, Genady Zinger, had been found in violation of regulations three times in the past, including for exceeding the boat's maximum capacity of 12. The boat was carrying 16 people when it crashed.

He said investigators have questioned the survivors and also four crew members of the Oka-5 barge who had helped to rescue them.

The survivors included a man identifying himself as a Turkish citizen and another who said he works at the U.S. Embassy, Markin said. The citizenship of the embassy employee was not known.

Crews used a floating crane to lift the 40-foot (12-meter) black boat, which had sunk to the bottom of the river and was lying beneath the barge. Hundreds of people crowded along the river bank to watch the operation, which took place across the water from the Luzhniki soccer stadium.

Emergencies Ministry officials said one body still had not been recovered.

The Moscow River, which runs past the Kremlin as it makes a large loop through the Russian capital, is plied by a steady stream of freight barges and tour boats on summer days. Private motor boats have become more popular in recent years, although their numbers



Russian emergency workers raise a pleasure boat that sunk in Moscow, Russia, Sunday, July 31, 2011. AP

remain small.

Sunday's accident occurred three weeks after more than 120 people died when a double-decker boat capsized and sank on the Volga River. Investigators said the 55-year-old vessel, the Bulgaria, was overloaded when it sank in heavy wind and rain. They have not yet determined what caused

it to capsize. Survivors reported the boat was listing to starboard and having engine trouble even as it left the dock.

President Dmitry Medvedev then ordered the inspection of all passenger vessels in the country.

After Sunday's crash, the Moscow city government was considering imposing stricter

controls on all vessels entering the central section of the river, Moscow River Shipping Co. general director Konstantin Anisimov said on NTV television. He said private owners of boats have started to run commercial businesses carrying passengers in violation of transport regulations and regulatory agencies have done little to stop them.

WORLD BRIEFS

TV: Israel agrees to negotiate over pre-'67 lines

JERUSALEM (AP)—In a dramatic policy shift, Israel's prime minister has agreed to negotiate the borders of a Palestinian state based on the cease-fire line that marks off the West Bank, a TV station reported Monday. Up to now, Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to spell out his plan for negotiating the border. A senior Israeli official would not confirm outright that the prime minister was now willing to adopt the cease-fire line as a starting point, but said Israel was willing to try new formulas to restart peace talks based on a proposal made by President Barack Obama.

Chavez, undergoing chemotherapy, cuts hair short

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez appeared with his head almost shaved on Monday, saying his hair has begun to fall out because of his cancer treatment. Chavez said his chemotherapy has been going well, and he joked about his appearance as he presided over a televised ceremony with Cabinet ministers. "It's a new look," the president said, switching briefly into English with a grin. The president had said he expected his hair to begin falling out as a result of the chemotherapy.

Fears of far-right rise in crisis-hit Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—They descended by the hundreds—black-shirted, bat-

wielding youths chasing down dark-skinned immigrants through the streets of Athens and beating them senseless in an unprecedented show of force by Greece's far-right extremists. In Greece, alarm is rising that the twin crises of financial meltdown and soaring illegal immigration are creating the conditions for a right-wing rise—and the Norway massacre on Monday drove authorities to beef up security. The move comes amid spiraling social unrest that has unleashed waves of rioting and vigilante thuggery on the streets of Athens.

Norway PM to politicians: Think before you speak

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Norway's prime minister has urged political leaders to show restraint in their public speech as the country emerges from mourning the 77 victims of a bombing and youth camp massacre by an anti-Muslim extremist. Jens Stoltenberg didn't single out anyone but seemed to be referring to sometimes harsh discussions on immigration when he told Parliament that the July 22 attacks gave reason to reflect on "what we have thought, said and written." "We all have something to learn from the tragedy," he told lawmakers at a ceremony on Monday honoring the victims. "We can all have a need to say 'I was wrong,' and be respected for it." That goes for politicians and newsroom editors, in everyday conversations and on the Internet, the prime minister said.

Focus

Consumers get scant relief from debt deal

By **DAVE CARPENTER**
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

Just like their government, consumers and individual investors will avert immediate disaster if the debt ceiling agreement wins congressional approval by Tuesday. The stock market shouldn't crash and interest rates won't start skyrocketing.

But even before a vote took place, it was clear the deal carries implications for Americans' borrowing, spending and investments.

By slashing government spending more than \$2 trillion, state and local governments may face greater pressure to raise taxes and cut jobs. That would only make it tougher for struggling individuals to make ends meet and find work.

And because the compromise stopped short of immediately implementing the more sweeping changes that had been sought, ratings agencies could still downgrade the U.S. credit rating in the coming months. That could jolt investor confidence, prompt markets to drop and make loans more expensive and harder to get.

For consumers, the accord provides no relief from economic reality, said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer for Harris Private Bank in Chicago.

Although the immediate consequences of the agreement may be limited, the deal puts the pressure back on a stagnant economy with little prospect for significant improvement any time soon.

"We're back to the same things we've been worrying about for the past couple of years," said Greg McBride, senior financial analyst for Bankrate.com. "Job growth is anemic, economic growth is uninspiring, and people have a lot of hesitation when it comes to things like job security and taking the plunge into homeownership."

The outlook for various areas of personal finance:

STOCKS

The short-lived nature of Monday's rally after a tentative agreement was announced underscores just how skeptical investors are in the face of weak economic data. After surging nearly 140 points at the opening, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled on a surprisingly weak manufacturing report. It was down as much as 145 points before finishing the day down 11.

A "relief rally" of 2 to 3 percent, or roughly 200 points in the Dow, could still occur once a deal is formally passed, according to market pundits. But few foresee the market rising sharply beyond that until signs emerge of stronger economic growth.

"What happens from here is hugely problematic," said Michael Farr, chief investment officer of Farr, Miller & Washington, an investment firm in Washington, D.C. "If you look beyond this particular (debt-ceiling) issue, all of the rest of the news is bad -- GDP, unemployment and housing numbers."

The bright spot is corporate earnings. Even if many corporations are keeping large amounts of cash on the sidelines, awaiting a recovery, their strength gives investors some reassurance that the market won't collapse again like it



Customers stand in line as Jaqueline Henderson, right, prepares to pump gas at a station in Portland, Ore., Friday, July 29, 2011. ^{AP}

did during the 2008 financial crisis.

BONDS

If Congress raises the debt ceiling no later than Tuesday, a potential default will be avoided but a downgrade could remove the nation's gilt-edged AAA debt rating. Credit rating agencies Standard and Poor's and Moody's declined to comment Monday about the bill's possible impact on their decision-making process.

If it does come to pass, a downgrade could send Treasury yields modestly higher, with corporate, municipal and other bond issues doing the same. A downgrade means the government would have to pay investors more to take on the additional risk of buying its bonds.

Municipal bonds also could face pressure from the government spending cutbacks, which will increase the crunch for cities and local governments.

LOANS

A downgrade would nudge interest rates higher on a variety of consumer loans. Not only would Uncle Sam have to pay higher borrowing rates, so would everyone else. That's because many interest rates are pegged to U.S. Treasuries. So if a downgrade pushes up Treasury rates, mortgage, corporate and other loans would rise too.

■ **Home loans:** Already-tight restrictions on lending could get tighter. Some borrowers could find it even more difficult to get approved for a mortgage.

Home-loan borrowers have been feeling the squeeze. For example, an Ohio woman with a portfolio of \$2 million had to go to 10 banks before finding one that would approve her request for a simple mortgage refinancing, according to financial planner John Ritter of Ritter Daniher Financial Advisory in Cincinnati. A routine issue can negate the value of a large portfolio in the eyes of a lender.

"I don't think it's going to get any easier any time soon," Ritter said. "The creditworthiness that wasn't even looked at before is now really stringent."

The upside for prospective homebuyers: Any increase in interest rates could be partially offset by a drop in home prices. When mortgage rates

rise, buyers are willing to pay less for a house.

The rates on home equity lines of credit could also climb.

■ **Student loans:** The debt deal increases funding for Pell Grants, which provide up to \$5,550 for low-income students. But the amount will still fall short of what's needed, leaving the program at risk of future cuts, according to Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of the FastWeb and FinAid websites about college aid.

If the U.S. credit rating is downgraded, interest rates would likely rise by 0.25 percent to 1 percent on existing private student loans and more on new private student loans, according to Kantrowitz. That would push up monthly loan payments anywhere from 5 percent to 12 percent depending on the duration of the loan.

For example, someone paying off \$25,000 in student loan debt at 10 percent interest over 10 years could see payments rise from about \$330 a month to \$344, with an extra \$1,680 in interest costs over the life of the loan.

■ **Credit cards:** Higher costs on credit cards are not imminent, but rates could creep higher if there is a downgrade.

The federal credit-card act prevents rate hikes on existing balances. But interest rates would go up for most people on new charges if a downgrade leads to higher borrowing costs for banks.

The collective impact of higher loan costs goes beyond the individual loans, as McBride noted. "The more money that individuals are devoting to interest charges on credit cards and home equity loans and student loans, the less available to be spent elsewhere."

However, almost none of the spending cuts in the compromise plan would occur before 2014.

MONEY MARKET FUNDS, CDs

A downgrade would not force money-market funds to sell their Treasuries, so they should remain stable. Although these funds are required to own only high-quality securities, a downgrade wouldn't force an immediate sell-off.

The problem for retirees and others who depend on fixed income from these investments is that their returns continue to be meager. Even the best

interest rates ultimately are coming.

"Retirees would love to have CDs that pay 3 percent or more," said Rob Russell, president of Dayton, Ohio-based investment firm Russell & Co. But the other side of that, he said, is that consumer loans will be considerably costlier once that happens.

TAXES

The legislation that congressional leaders agreed on does not include automatic federal tax increases. But the Bush tax cuts, extended once already, expire in 2013. Unless extended again, taxes would rise.

State and local taxes, as noted, also could be bumped higher as governments cope with the reality of less money available from Washington.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The deficit deal leaves out extended unemployment benefits for victims of the recession. President Barack Obama had pushed to extend them beyond their scheduled expiration next January.

With spending restricted, the government also would have less available to pump into programs directly aimed at creating jobs to stimulate the economy.

**Framework of the deal**

Main points of the agreement now before Congress that was reached by the White House and congressional leaders to cut spending and raise the debt ceiling:

Debt ceiling**Raise debt ceiling by up to \$2.4 trillion in three stages**

- \$400 billion immediately
 - \$500 billion this fall by order of the president unless Congress overrides him by two-thirds vote
 - \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion after a special congressional committee enacts matching levels of spending cuts
- Increase is sufficient to pay expenses through the November 2012 elections

Spending cuts**Cut about \$2.4 trillion in spending over 10 years**

- \$917 billion over 10 years from discretionary programs when deal passes Congress; includes about \$350 billion from defense and other security programs, the rest from such programs as law enforcement, education, highways — everything but entitlement spending (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, federal pensions, VA programs and so forth)
- **Cap spending** on discretionary programs each year for 10 years, starting at \$1.043 trillion in 2012 (\$6 billion below current level)
- **\$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion** over 10 years to be identified by 12-member, bipartisan congressional committee, which could find savings by overhauling the tax code, restructuring benefit programs such as Medicare, examining all other spending; recommendations must be given by Nov. 23 to Congress, which would have an up-or-down vote, with no modifications, by Dec. 23
- **Automatic, across-the-board spending cuts** would begin in 2013 if the committee or Congress fails to act; cuts to Medicare would be capped and fall only on medical providers; Social Security, Medicaid, federal worker pay, benefits for veterans and the poor would be exempt

Revenue**No increases in taxes**

- Tax code could be overhauled by congressional committee

Balanced budget amendment**Vote on balanced budget amendment to Constitution**

- Both House and Senate required to vote on amendment by end of year; would have to get two-thirds vote from each house and then be approved by three-fourths of states before becoming law

Source: U.S. Congressional Budget Office, AP, Reuters

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Campus Life

Black teen's unusual talent: Singing Chinese opera

By **TERENCE CHEA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Tyler Thompson is an unlikely star in the world of Chinese opera.

The black teenager from Oakland has captivated audiences in the U.S. and China with his ability to sing pitch-perfect Mandarin and perform the ancient Chinese art form.

"As soon as he opens his mouth and sings in Chinese, the Chinese are very surprised and then feel very proud of him," said his music teacher Sherlyn Chew. "When he puts on the costume, and all the acting, you can see that he's pretty good."

Tyler, 15, is a standout student in Chew's Oakland-based Purple Silk Music Education program, which teaches children and youth—mostly from low-income immigrant families—how to sing and play traditional Chinese music. The program's Great Wall Youth Orchestra & Chorus has performed around the country.

Tyler has learned to sing several well-known pieces of Chinese opera, a centuries-old form of musical theater known for its elaborate costumes, clanging gongs and cymbals, wide-ranging vocals and highly stylized movements.

At the World Children's Festival in Washington in June, Tyler, dressed in a black robe emblazoned with golden dragons, got a standing ovation when he performed as Justice Bao, a famous Song Dynasty judge who fought government corruption, from the Chinese classic "Bao Qing Tian."

"The music is very beautiful, and it's



In this photo taken Saturday, June 11, 2011, Tyler Thompson rehearses with the Great Wall Youth Orchestra in Oakland, Calif. ^{AP}

very passionate. You can hear it when it's being played," said Tyler, a theater student at the Oakland School for the Arts. "It's made me want to know more about the world outside of America or California or Oakland."

David Lei, chairman of the Chinese Performing Arts Foundation in San Francisco, has seen Tyler perform several times and arranged to have him sing at the opening of a Chinese opera exhibit several years ago.

"It's very authentic because he hits the tones just right, so you understand

everything," Lei said. "People just don't expect an Afro-American kid to be doing it. It's the initial shock. There's a sense of novelty."

Tyler, who comes from a music-loving family, began learning how to sing in Chinese a decade ago when he was a kindergartner in Chew's music class at Oakland's Lincoln Elementary School, where about 90 percent of students are Asian.

Chew quickly recognized Tyler's talent and recruited him to join her Purple Silk music program, where

students learn to sing Chinese songs and play traditional instruments such as a two-string violin called an erhu, a four-stringed lute known as a pipa and a bamboo flute called a dizi.

"I really took a liking to him and thought he had quite a large range," said Chew, who started the music program at Oakland's Laney College in 1995. "He hears pitch very well, and his pronunciation of Chinese characters is very accurate."

Tyler's mother, Vanessa Ladson, said her son's education at a predominantly

Asian elementary school and participation in the Chinese music program have made him more open-minded.

"He's grown a lot," she said. "He's learning a different culture, and the Asian children are learning his culture, so it's a plus-plus for everybody."

Tyler said friends and classmates sometimes poke fun at him, wondering where a black kid from Oakland learned how to sing Chinese opera.

"Sometimes they don't understand it," Tyler said. "It's just joking about the fact that as dark as I am, I'm singing Chinese. What's up with that? If I go to China, I'm going to stick out like a sore thumb. It's just those types of jokes. All in good fun."

Since his first solo at age 6, Tyler has performed at San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall and Herbst Theater, on television shows such as "Good Morning America" and at the U.S. State Department, where he sang for then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi.

Tyler became a sensation in China several years ago after Chinese Central Television broadcast his performance at a Lunar New Year show in San Jose.

Tyler, who has learned to speak some basic Chinese, was scheduled to make his debut performance in China in July, but he and his mother ran into trouble getting visas in time, Chew said.

In recent years, Tyler has begun studying theater and acting more seriously, but he plans to keep performing traditional Chinese music, which has opened up a world of opportunities to him.

"I've been sticking to this to see where else it will take me," he said.

NMC to host free info session on Aug. 9

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011, in Room D1 at the college's As Terlaje campus, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to answer questions. Other current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC.

Individuals who attend the free information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the fall 2011 semester. This corresponds to a savings of about \$75. Registration for the fall 2011 semester will begin on Aug. 15, 2011, Monday, and will continue until Aug. 20, 2011, Saturday.

This free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. **(NMC)**

NMC English and Math Placement Test Schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting the English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 9, Tuesday:	9am – 6pm, Building M
Aug. 10, Wednesday:	9am – 4pm, Building M
Aug. 11, Thursday:	9am – 6pm, Building M
Aug. 12, Friday:	9am – 4pm, Building M
Aug. 15, Monday:	9am – 4pm, Building M
Aug. 16, Tuesday:	9am – 6pm, Building M
Aug. 17, Wednesday:	9am – 4pm, Building M
Aug. 18, Thursday:	9am – 6pm, Building M
Aug. 19, Friday:	9am – 4pm, Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 9, Tuesday:	10am – 12pm, Room A-9
Aug. 11, Thursday:	10am – 12pm, Room A-9
	5pm – 7pm, Room A-9
Aug. 16, Tuesday:	10am – 12pm, Room A-9
Aug. 18, Thursday:	10am – 12pm, Room A-9
	5pm – 7pm, Room A-9

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's fall 2011 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 15, 2011.

There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. If you have a placement test fee waiver, students must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and

Humanities Department to schedule an appointment. Walk-in test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. NMC students are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1202 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the fall 2011 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. **(NMC)**

UOG hosts Soil Carbon Sequestration Conference Aug. 4

»Conference is open to community

The University of Guam hosts the Guam Soil Carbon Sequestration Conference on Aug. 4 as part a multi-state research meeting on soils.

The keynote speaker is R. Lal from the Ohio State University's Carbon Management and Sequestration Center.

"He is one of the most prominent soil scientists in the world," said Mohammad Golabi, UOG profes-

sor and conference organizer. "His presentation focuses on 'Soil Carbon Sequestration' as it relates to climate change and global warming. He will talk about soil management and its impact on climate change and natural resources that support life on earth. His presentation will be of interest to community leaders, natural resource managers, and the general public – it isn't just for soil scien-

tists. He will also discuss the soil carbon as it relates to the production of bio-fuel and the sustainability of energy supplies and their impact on the world economy."

Other topics will be presented by academics and specialists from the University of Illinois; Iowa State University; University of Wisconsin-Madison; South Dakota State University; the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Nanjing, China; the Natural Resources

Conservation Service, Guam; Tarbiat Modares University in Iran; the University of Missouri; Palau Community College-Cooperative Research and Extension; and the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences in Hawaii.

The conference begins at 9am and will be held in the School of Business and Public Administration Building, Anthony Leon Guerrero multipurpose room. The conference is free for UOG students and employees as well as interested community members. For a detailed list of topics and presenters visit www.uog.edu. **(UOG)**

Life & Style

The hits just keep coming for stylish wunderkind Bruno Mars



Bruno Mars performs in Rockefeller Center for the "Today" show on November 22, 2010, in New York City.

DENNIS VAN TINE/ABACA PRESS/MCT

By **JON BREAM**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—Bruno Mars, pop's most dangerous quintuple threat, is accustomed to juggling.

On a recent day, he was spending his first day in a recording studio in nine months, trying to find a cure for a sinus infection and doing an interview to promote his first-ever appearance at a fashion show, Macy's Glamorama, on Friday in Minneapolis.

He's not doing it for the fashion but rather because it's a benefit for the Children's Cancer Research Fund.

"I've never been in this situation before. I've been broke my whole life, basically," Mars, 26, said from his Los Angeles studio. "The fact that I can use my music to bring people together and help a good cause, that's really why I'm doing it."

Mars was a struggling artist for years until he got into the hitmaking business in 2009-10—singing the hooks on Travie McCoy's "Billionaire" and B.o.B.'s "Nothin' on You" (which he co-wrote), scoring with his own "Just the Way You Are," "The Lazy Song" and "Grenade," and co-writing and producing "Forget You" for Cee-Lo Green.

As a singer, songwriter, pro-

ducer, multi-instrumentalist and performer, Mars is enjoying the kind of golden touch with different artists that hasn't been seen in pop since Prince's reign in the mid-1980s.

At Glamorama, Mars will sing a few of the songs that have made him famous. The unpredictable part is his outfit. Will he be stylin' in a suit, two-tone shoes and pompadour, as he did at the Grammys, or will he favor the denim, T-shirt and fedora he wore at his sold-out St. Paul concert in May?

"When you say Glamorama, I'm thinking leotard, cowboy boots and possibly a shower cap," he said with a chuckle. "It's fashion. You've got to take chances, right? So why not?"

Mars describes his sense of fashion the same way he defines his music—"very unorthodox," he said. He drew a parallel to the title of his hit debut album, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans."

"Doo-Wops' is the more gentleman and 'Hooligans' is more in-the-street-everyday," he said.

The album has sold 14 million copies worldwide and yielded the sweet ballad "Just the Way You Are," which spent four weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's pop chart and 20 weeks atop the adult-contemporary chart, a record for a debut single.

"We wrote it to make women,

especially young women, feel beautiful about themselves," he said. "The message behind that song is: Beautiful and sexy is the way you carry yourself. It's not about designer brands or plastic surgery. When you feel sexy and you feel confident, it shows. We wanted to boost women's ego. It's a positive song."

Rolling Stone called Mars a master of no-brainer songs. He keeps it simple, favoring uncomplicated lyrics, basic melodies and catchy hooks, seasoned with pop, soul, reggae or another style in his broad palette. In short, he's like a modern-day Smokey Robinson—if not as poetic.

Peter Gene Hernandez was born in Honolulu to a Filipino singer and a Puerto Rican percussionist. When he was 2, his dad started calling him "Bruno" because he looked like pro wrestler Bruno Sammartino. At 4, Bruno was onstage imitating Elvis Presley in his parents' 1950s-inspired revue on Waikiki Beach. His father schooled him on classic performers.

"I grew up watching and idolizing Prince and guys that write their own music and play the guitar like Jimi Hendrix and then get on the piano and sing an R&B song, and get up and dance, whether it's like Michael Jackson, James Brown or Jackie Wilson," Mars said. "That's what my father filled my brain

up with; that was his music. I was growing up watching those VHS cassettes."

After high school, Bruno moved to Los Angeles and played in dive bars in front of fewer people than he could count on his fingers. After five years of struggling, he signed with Motown but got dropped a year later without ever releasing an album. In 2006, the drummer for Black Eyed Peas introduced him to another aspiring songwriter, Philip Lawrence, and they formed a partnership, eventually bringing in a third wheel, Ari Levine.

The trio became known as the Smeezingtons, writing and producing enough hits to be nominated for producer of the year at the 2011 Grammys. And Mars, the recording star, was just nominated for four MTV Music Video Awards, including video of the year for "Grenade." He'll compete against Green's "Forget You," a song he co-wrote.

"That's the only song where we all said to each other, 'If this song doesn't go, we're in the wrong business,'" Mars recalled. "That song felt so good to us in the studio and so unique and Cee-Lo just sang the hell out of it. It had all the ingredients to a feel-good summer record. It's such a cool message because he's saying 'eff you' with such sentiment that I don't think had

ture and content.

The letter appears to have been written 50 years after Byron's death in 1824. The author remains a mystery.

The museum is considering an exhibit on forged documents.

ever been done before."

Mars is now getting called by veterans, including Kanye West and Jay-Z for their highly anticipated collaboration "Watch the Throne," scheduled for release this week.

"I met Kanye briefly in Hawaii and played him some songs," Mars said. "I wrote a little bit of this song called 'Lift Off.' Their raps are great. Kanye is an incred-

ible producer. Jay-Z and Kanye, these guys are the biggest. It was extremely flattering."

Working with the biggest stars, scoring some of the biggest hits of the past two years, winning a Grammy, receiving a bunch of MTV nominations—Mars paused a moment to take it all in and admire his juggling.

"It's good to be me right now," he said.

Bruno Mars learned the biz by working with big acts

By **KEVIN C. JOHNSON**
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Bruno Mars' original game plan was like many aspiring singers': Move to California, get discovered, get signed, release a record, tour the world.

"That's not always how it goes," he says.

The Honolulu native eventually got the record deal and tour, but they didn't come about the way he wanted. Before he was able to step out with his debut album "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," he first had to prove his mettle producing and writing songs for others.

He co-wrote and can be heard on B.o.B's "Nothin' on You" and Travie McCoy's "Billionaire," two especially ubiquitous songs this year, and also lent a hand to Cee-Lo's "F*** You."

His work with these artists and with others such as Sean Kingston, Brandy, Flo Rida and Adam Levine came about while he was waiting for something to happen with his first record deal.

"I was frustrated, waiting around to work with producers and writers. Then I said, 'I can do that. I don't need anybody else,' so I started writing and producing tracks," he says.

Another label impressed by his songs approached him and wanted one of his productions for boy group Menudo.

"I said that was my art—my music. They offered me 20 grand. That's all it cost to sell out," he says of the song titled "Lost," which he says went "double plastic. It wasn't a great song. I wrote it when I was 17 and I didn't know what to write about."

Still, says Mars, now 25, it was the smartest thing he could have done.

"It opened my eyes. I was able to learn so much before putting out my first album. I got to work with other artists, and it laid the groundwork for me to be ready and put some real songs together," he says.

Atlantic finally took a

chance on him.

"For years I had been getting rejected and rejected and rejected," he says. "I was like, 'Is this going to happen?' Then everything took off."

That route ultimately made it easier for Mars to step forward as a solo artist.

"It's easier when you understand more about what you're doing. It's like a football player knowing the rule book in and out and knowing the sizes of the pads you wear when you go into the field," he says. "You have to know every detail about your craft, and when I was younger I didn't know. And I'm still learning every day."

Mars says his previous work with other artists served as a warning to folks on where he's coming from.

"Nothing on You" had a Motown vibe, 'Billionaire' was a reggae acoustic guitar-driven song, though one of my favorites is the Cee-Lo song. I don't think anyone else could've sung that song," he says. "And there's 'Just the Way You Are.' If you know my story, you know I love all different genres of music."

Mars claims reggae, Michael Jackson and doo-wop among his influences. He calls doo-wop "just straightforward love songs—so charming and simple and romantic."

Mars says his love of doo-wop and his album title might make one think he's "a geek writing love songs in the studio all day," but he's anything but that.

"There is a romantic side, but I'm also a young guy having fun," he says. (Some may say too much fun. He's awaiting trial on cocaine possession charges after he was arrested in Las Vegas in September. He would not address it in this interview.)

"If you come to the show, you're going to see a couple of young guys jumping around having a blast. Get ready to have your face blown off," he says. "It's exciting and raw, and I'm dripping by the end of the show."

NJ museum's Lord Byron letter turns out to be fake

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP)—It turns out a nearly 200-year-old letter donated to a New Jersey museum wasn't written by English Romantic poet Lord Byron.

The National Historical Park in Morristown received the let-

ter more than 50 years ago from a banker and collector.

The letter's authenticity came into doubt when Drew University began planning a large Byron exhibit. The park's chief of cultural resources Jude Pfister

offered the letter.

The Star-Ledger of Newark (<http://bit.ly/qNW7q5>) reports the university shared the letter with an expert at the New York Public Library. She found problems with the salutation, signa-

The Sheepdogs win Rolling Stone cover contest

NEW YORK (AP)—Landing the cover of Rolling Stone is usually confirmation of superstar status. The Sheepdogs—winners of the magazine's first contest to be on the cover—aren't there yet, but they may be on their way.

The Canadian rock band beat out 15 other competitors in "Do You Wanna Be a Rock & Roll Star?" to land on the cover. The winner was announced Monday.

The magazine hits newsstands Friday.

The previously unsigned act is also getting a deal with Atlantic Records, and on Tuesday they'll release a digital EP "Five Easy Pieces" and perform on NBC's "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon."

"The biggest thing is ... just being able to tell everybody, and seeing what happens," Ewan Currie, lead singer of the quartet from Saskatoon, said in an interview last week with The Associated Press.

The runner-up is singer-songwriter Leila Broussard. Her soft, guitar-strumming tunes are a marked contrast to the hard-driving, rollicking rock offered by the Sheepdogs.

There was apparently no love lost between the two acts. Currie said of Broussard: "She could be rather sullen and not particularly friendly."

They battled it out at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn., and in the end, readers showed their preference.

Currie said that while Rolling Stone has had its share of pop acts over the years, the Sheepdogs probably best embody the magazine's spirit.

"In the end, rock 'n' roll won," he said.

While the Sheepdogs, all in their 20s, are being introduced to the masses, they're hardly a new group. The band—which also includes drummer Sam Corbett, guitarist Leot Hanson and bassist Ryan Gullen—have been around since 2006. They have released their albums independently, are regular road performers and have a website.

"We were helped by the fact that we are experienced, and we have been running this operation," Currie said. "We were fully formed ... we were ready to seize it."

The group is excited to be on Atlantic Records and to have access to the resources a major label can offer. But band members are hoping the label won't try to change them too much.

"Ultimately we want to put out a record that represents us, and we don't want to change ... so if it changed, it would be a shame," he said.

A massive billboard of the Rolling Stone cover was to be unveiled Monday evening in New York's Times Square.

"It's going to be pretty surreal," Currie said.



AP
In this magazine cover image released by Rolling Stone, the lover of "Rolling Stone" magazine, featuring The Sheepdogs are shown.

'Bachelorette' picks her guy, gets engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—"Bachelorette" Ashley Hebert has picked her match made in network TV heaven.

The last man standing on the ABC dating reality show "The Bachelorette" is J.P. Rosenbaum from New York's Long Island. Hebert chose the 34-year-old construction manager over winemaker Ben Flajnik from California in Monday's two-hour finale.

Hebert accepted Rosenbaum's marriage proposal on the show as well.

Tabloids and blogs have speculated for weeks that Rosenbaum was the season's winner.

Hebert is a 26-year-old Madawaska, Maine, native. She now lives in Philadelphia and attends dental school.

She's the seventh "Bachelorette" in the show's history. She competed on "The Bachelor" for Brad Womack's affections in season 15.

So far, only two couples from "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" franchise have made it down the aisle.

Octomom to take more punches in boxing match



Suleman

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Octomom Nadya Suleman isn't done taking punches. The Springfield, Mass., newspaper The Republican reports (<http://bit.ly/qPMHyR>) that Celebrity Boxing Federation promoter Damon Feldman announced Monday that Suleman will be the featured fighter in a bout in Springfield, 90 miles west of Boston.

Suleman drew criticism and was dubbed the Octomom in 2009 when she gave birth to eight babies. She was an unemployed single mother who already had six children. She says she was addicted to having children. Her octuplets are the world's longest-surviving set.

Feldman says he's looking for a woman who wants to get in the ring and "fight this well-known mom."

The fight will consist of three 1-minute rounds. The women will wear oversized gloves and protective head gear.

Suleman fought in a similar match in New Jersey in June. It was a draw.

Performance art on Wall St. ends in arrests

NEW YORK (AP)—Some artists got naked on Wall Street during a performance art piece—and then they got arrested.

The two men and a woman were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct Monday morning outside the New York Stock Exchange.

Manhattan artist Zefrey Throwell organized the 5-minute social critique of Wall Street with dozens of volunteers acting like people at work. He says he didn't intend to provoke police and his target was U.S. and world financial institutions.

Among those arrested was Brooklyn personal trainer and performance artist Eric Clinton Anderson, who played a naked janitor outside the stock exchange's heavily guarded front door. He jokes, "Somebody needs to clean up Wall Street." Arrested with Anderson were another Brooklyn man and a Queens woman. Police say they created a public disturbance.

Kings of Leon cancel rest of US tour dates



AP
In this Oct. 21, 2010 file photo, members of the band Kings of Leon, from left, Jared Followill, Nathan Followill, Matthew Followill and Caleb Followill, pose for a portrait in New York.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Kings of Leon singer Caleb Followill is suffering from vocal problems and exhaustion, forcing the band on Monday to cancel its U.S. tour.

The cancellation comes three days after Followill left the stage mid-show in Dallas due to what he called "excessive" and "unbearable" heat. But other members of the family band said over the weekend that its problems go beyond dehydration, something that wasn't addressed in a Monday statement.

"Thanks to all our true fans for under-

standing and helping us through this hard time," Caleb Followill said on Twitter.

Followill's exit led to vows to replay the show by his brothers, drummer Nathan and bassist Jared, and cousin guitarist Matthew on Twitter. But Jared Followill also acknowledged the band has "internal sicknesses & problems" that go beyond dehydration.

A statement says the band is "devastated, but in order to give their fans the shows they deserve, they need to take this break." They'll return to the road in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Sept.

28. The canceled shows will not be re-scheduled.

After years of buzz, the Nashville, Tenn., band named for the brothers' father stormed the international scene with the singles "Sex on Fire" and "Use Somebody" from their breakthrough album, the multi-platinum "Only by the Night," in 2008. They released their fifth album, "Come Around Sundown," earlier this year.

They've been bankable touring stars, though not without a few notable problems. They had to postpone some dates earlier this year when Nathan Followill tore his right biceps and labrum while working out. The band also walked off stage in St. Louis last year due to the large volume of pigeon poop falling from the rafters, but returned a few months later to make it up to fans.

Caleb Followill told the crowd repeatedly last Friday that he was too hot and that his voice was suffering for it. At one point he said he was ill and would be back after taking a few minutes to recover, but he never returned.

The Followills, known for their sense of humor and willingness to circle the wagons when criticized, took to Twitter to apologize. Matthew Followill even went so far as to apologize to individual followers.

Jared Followill tweeted Monday that he was "utterly depressed" and that "family has to come 1st." But then he tried to lighten the mood.

Bunny costumes suit 'Playboy Club' actresses

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The legendary Playboy bunny costume can be pretty snug, but it puts a wearer in the mood.

The actresses who star as those alluring waitresses in NBC's "The Playboy Club" say dressing for the role made it easier to play.

Amber Heard plays Bunny Maureen in the upcoming series and says that when the suit goes on, "you are instantly transported back to that time." The show is set in 1961.

During a meeting with reporters Monday, co-star Jenna Dewan Tatum agreed that it's like "playing dress-up every day."

Executive producer Chad



Amber Heard, right, and Ed-die Cibrian, cast members in the television series "The Playboy Club," take part in a panel discussion on the show at the NBC Universal summer press tour, Monday, Aug. 1, 2011, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

Hodge confirmed the costumes are faithful re-creations of the circa-1960s originals, but they

have "a couple of invisible modifications" to provide a bit more comfort than before. He

didn't get specific.

"The Playboy Club" premieres Sept. 19.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Sissy Spacek gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar-winning actress Sissy Spacek has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The 61-year-old actress was honored Monday with star number 2,443 on Hollywood Boulevard. Spacek is known for her role as the troubled teen in "Carrie" and she won an Academy Award for her portrayal of country singer Loretta Lynn in the 1981 movie "Coal Miner's Daughter." Her latest movie, "The Help," comes out later this month.

Studio sues pair over leaked 'Twilight' images

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The makers of the "Twilight" movies have sued two people they claim are responsible for leaking images of unfinished scenes from the series finale "Breaking Dawn." A lawsuit filed Monday by Summit Entertainment in federal court in Los Angeles accuses Daiana and Hector Santa, who live in Argentina, of hacking into secure computers, stealing images and posting them on social networking sites. The pair are accused of posting multiple images from "Breaking Dawn" online on March 31. The lawsuit claims others who have not been identified may also be responsible. Summit has blasted the leaks, saying it is unfair to the majority of "Twilight" fans to have unfinished work posted online.

Chief of struggling NBC calls on Ferrell, Hayes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt is drawing on Will Ferrell, Sean Hayes and other proven talent to help turn around the fourth-place network's fortunes. The former Fox and Showtime executive says he's being "very aggressive" about making new development deals after joining NBC late last year, including one with Ferrell's production company. For former "Will

& Grace" star Hayes, there's a new NBC sitcom in the works. "Law & Order" creator Dick Wolf is developing a new firefighter drama for the network. Greenblatt told the Television Critics Association on Monday that "The Biggest Loser," "America's Got Talent" and other reality shows remain important to NBC, but he'd like to rebalance the schedule with "scripted shows that become lasting hits."

De Niro hosts 9/11 film on CBS

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Robert De Niro will host CBS' update of its award-winning film on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to mark the 10th anniversary next month. CBS will revisit its film, "9/11," first broadcast in 2002, including new interviews with firefighters and others who were part of the first film. The Peabody Award-winning film contains the only known footage of the first plane striking the World Trade Center. The special will be broadcast over two hours on the night of the anniversary. De Niro, who was host of the original special nine years ago, will visit the 9/11 memorial and show viewers progress on the site's rebuilding. Several television networks are commemorating the anniversary with retrospectives.

Judge tells Zediva to stop web streaming of movies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge in Los Angeles has issued a preliminary injunction in favor of the Motion Picture Association of America in its copyright infringement lawsuit against video-streaming startup Zediva. The MPAA said in a statement that Judge John Walter issued the order Monday against Zediva, whose founders believed they had discovered a legal loophole to allow early instant viewing online by having customers rent DVDs physically located in Silicon Valley. MPAA Senior Vice President Dan Robbins calls the decision a great victory

for the men and women of the film and television industry. Messages left late Monday for Zediva representatives were not immediately returned.

Alleged Miley Cyrus hacker pleads in separate case

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A 21-year-old who bragged about hacking into Miley Cyrus' email account and distributing revealing pictures of her pleaded guilty in federal court to unrelated charges of credit card fraud and hacking. Josh Holly was in U.S. District Court in Nashville on Monday. He pleaded to having about 200 credit card numbers and to commercial electronic mail message fraud in a scheme to spam visitors to celebrities' MySpace pages. Holly was not charged for hacking the singer's account. But federal agents found evidence of other crimes when they interviewed Holly and searched his computer in 2008. The Tennessean newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/nYTeSx>) that Holly also violated a condition that he stay off the Internet when he posted on Facebook that he was feeling "strong urges" to start hacking again.

'Jeopardy!' burglary suspect pleads not guilty

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The San Francisco woman charged with breaking into the hotel room of "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek has pleaded not guilty to felony charges of burglary and possession of stolen property. Lucinda Moyers entered her plea Monday in San Francisco Superior Court. The judge kept the 56-year-old's bail at \$625,000. She is scheduled back in court on Aug. 15 to set a preliminary hearing date. Authorities say Moyers stole cash, a bracelet and other items from the San Francisco hotel room on July 26 where Trebek was staying with his wife, Jean. All of the items except the cash and bracelet were recovered. Trebek says he chased Moyers out of his

room at the Marriot Marquis. He ruptured his Achilles tendon and is currently on crutches.

Berry granted restraining order against intruder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has granted Halle Berry a three-year civil restraining order against a man charged with stalking the Oscar-winning actress. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted Berry the order Monday without requiring the actress to attend a hearing. Berry wrote in a petition last month that she was "extremely frightened" of Richard A. Franco, who was arrested after scaling the wall of her house July 11. Franco is required to stay 100 yards from the actress and her 3-year-old daughter. Franco remains jailed after being charged with felony stalking and burglary. He is accused of entering Berry's property three times over a three-day period in July, including an incident in which the actress says he nearly followed her into her home.

NY caricaturist, illustrator Sam Norkin dies at 94

NEW YORK (AP)—Sam Norkin, a caricaturist and illustrator who created more than 4,000 published drawings that captured moments in theater, dance, opera, jazz, pop and classical music over seven decades, has died. He was 94. Publicist Lester Schecter says Norkin died Saturday in New York. From 1940 to 1956, Norkin's illustrations were featured in the New York Herald Tribune. During the next 26 years, he covered performing arts for the New York Daily News. His art appeared in newspapers in cities where shows made their debuts, including The Boston Globe, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Toronto Star. He also was a member of the Drama Desk Board for more than 40 years and served as its president. An annual special award has been named in his memory.

Stylist's hair-raising tales may scare his clients away

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a weekly client at an upscale hair salon. I and most of the other customers are over 65. The owner, "Valentino," is a 50ish widower who likes to brag about his romantic conquests. My friends and I agree that his revelations are inappropriate and unprofessional.

Val is an excellent hairdresser. Should we ignore his behavior, or quit cold turkey and live with bad hair days?

EMBARRASSED IN THE BIG EASY

DEAR EMBARRASSED: I have a better idea. Take Valentino aside and tell him privately, as a friend, that hearing the details of his sex life is embarrassing, and that some of his clients have mentioned they're considering changing hairdressers because of it. That should "snip" it.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend, "Marianne," and I have known each other for 27 years. She recently got divorced, started playing online games and met a man at one of the sites. Within a couple of months, he had moved across the country with his son and into Marianne's house.

This guy has nothing going for him. He has no job background, no skills, and as near as I can tell, he is a mooch. Marianne says he feels material things aren't important and he is just not "into" money.

Marianne and I get out for a couple of hours a week for "girl time," and when we do, he calls and texts her constantly like a jealous teenager. Abby, we're 40 years old! I haven't told her how I feel about her new live-in, but I have always had good instincts and my alarm bells are ringing. Should I tell her how I feel, or try to be happy she has found someone to give her the attention she didn't have in her marriage?

SEES THE WRITING ON THE WALL

DEAR SEES THE WRITING: Of course the man doesn't think material things are important and isn't into money. He is enjoying Marianne's material things and HER money.

Yes, you should tell your friend you are concerned. Begin by saying your concern stems from a fear that she has gotten seriously involved so quickly after her divorce, and that the man appears to be so insecure and controlling that he can't give her a couple of hours of "girl time" without interruption. That really is a red flag. And the fact that your friend is supporting him and his son is another.

DEAR ABBY: A close, longtime family friend recently passed. In order to relieve some of the pressure on the deceased's family, I volunteered my time and money to organize the reception following the funeral.

There was a lot of food left over, much of it food that I had provided. We offered the leftovers to the family and they took some, but not all of it. I assumed that what was left of my food would go to me and my family, but others (some of whom provided nothing) decided to pack it up for themselves. Am I wrong to feel cheated out of food that I purchased?

TICKED OFF IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR TICKED OFF: I understand your frustration, but please don't waste your time fuming. The people who took the leftovers without first checking to see who had brought or donated the food probably needed it more than you. These are difficult times, so let it go.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: ALYKA MAE MANDANI AGBANLOG, Minor Child,

By: LOLITA M. AGBANLOG and IKE P. AGBANLOG, Petitioner.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to appoint legal guardian for the above-named minor child by Lolita Agbanlog and Ike P. Agbanlog, petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI before the Honorable Perry B. Inos on the 18th day of August, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE
"This Notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

August 3, 2011

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that NMHC has revised its FY 2011 Annual Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Annual Plan encompasses the goals, objectives, and strategies of NMHC's Program and Housing Division and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). Comments may be directed to:

Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director
NMHC Central Office
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950

Comments may also be faxed to (670) 234-9021. The Annual Plan is also available for public review and comment at NMHC's Central Office located on Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, as well as at the respective NMHC Field Offices on Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except on CNMI holidays. The deadline for the comment period is at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

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Company Background & Job Purpose

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
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FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Other delegates come out

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the new president was to be sworn in.

Sabathia earns MLB-best 16th win



CHICAGO (AP)—CC Sabathia pitched eight strong innings to earn his major league-best 16th win and the New York Yankees beat the Chicago White Sox 3-2 on Monday for their fourth consecutive victory.

Sabathia allowed two runs and 10 hits, matching a season high, but managed to wiggle out of trouble all night as the White Sox struggled to score without injured slugger Paul Konerko. They put the tying run in scoring position in the fifth, sixth and seventh and came away with nothing each time.

Sabathia (16-5) improved to 9-1 with a 1.76 ERA in his last 10 starts. Mariano Rivera pitched a perfect ninth for his 28th save.

Curtis Granderson had an RBI double and Robinson Cano a run-scoring in the first inning, and Granderson scored on Cano's double-play grounder in the third.

White Sox right-hander Jake Peavy (4-5) settled down after a rough start and pitched seven effective innings. Alexei Ramirez hit a two-run homer in the fourth.

Both teams were without their captains for the opener of the four-game series. Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter rested with a bruised right middle finger and is expected to return to the lineup Tuesday, but Konerko could miss the next couple of days with a bruised left calf.

Both All-Stars were injured when they were hit by a pitch on Sunday.

"I can't bear any weight," Konerko said. "That's probably the main thing. Just very weak. That's very normal where I got hit. Just keep working at it."

The inconsistent White Sox trail AL Central-leading Detroit by 4 1/2 games, and could lose more ground if they are without their best player for a prolonged stretch. Konerko leads Chicago regulars with a .305 batting average, 25 homers and 76 RBIs.

His absence was felt almost immediately.

Indians 9, Red Sox 6

At Boston, Asdrubal Cabrera's second two-run homer of the game, originally ruled a single off the short wall in right field and overturned by replay review, broke an eighth-inning tie and lifted Cleveland past Boston.

Travis Hafner homered after Cabrera's first of the game as the Indians won for just the third time in their last 11 games.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia had a broken-bat two-run homer and Carl Crawford had a solo homer, double and scored two runs for Boston, which was coming off a 20-6 record in July—it's first 20-win month since May 2007.

Cabrera's homer came off reliever Daniel Bard (1-5) and halted his scoreless innings streak at 26 1-3, longest active in the majors.

Mariners 8, Athletics 4

At Seattle, Dustin Ackley continued his hitting tear with a pair of extra-base hits, including a bases-loaded triple, rookie righty Blake Beavan escaped early trouble to pitch well into the seventh and Seattle beat Oakland, 8-4.

Ackley now has 19 extra-base hits in his first 37 games. It's the second-highest total for any Mariners rookie



New York Yankees starter CC Sabathia pitches to the Chicago White Sox in the first inning of a baseball game in Chicago on Monday, Aug. 1, 2011.

in their first 50 games. Ackley passed Ken Griffey Jr.'s total of 18 with his triple in the second and a double in the fourth. Alvin Davis had 26 extra-base hits in his first 50 games during the 1984 season when he was the AL rookie of the year.

Ackley led a barrage of 16 hits that knocked Oakland starter Trevor Cahill (9-10) out after just four innings, his second shortest outing of the season.

Nationals 5, Braves 3

At Washington, Rick Ankiel hit two home runs, and Livan Hernandez allowed one run over six innings and drove in a run to lead the Washington Nationals to a 5-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Monday night.

Ankiel led off the bottom of the first with a homer to center field. It was the second time this season the Nationals' opening hitter homered—Jayson Werth did so on June 16 against St. Louis.

Atlanta second baseman Dan Uggla

also homered twice, in the second and ninth innings, giving him 22 this season. Uggla went 3 for 4, extending his career-long hitting streak to 23 games.

Cubs 5, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Starlin Castro had three hits and Carlos Zambrano survived six choppy innings as the Chicago Cubs spoiled slugger Derrek Lee's two-homer debut with his new team.

Lee, acquired in a trade with the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday night, knocked in all three Pittsburgh runs but it wasn't enough as the Pirates lost for the sixth time in eight games. Ryan Ludwick, picked up by the Pirates just before the trade deadline, went 0 for 3 with a walk.

Zambrano (8-6) picked up his 13th career win over Pittsburgh, tied with Aaron Harang for second-most among active pitchers. Zambrano struck out five and walked three while giving up seven hits. Carlos Marmol pitched a

perfect ninth to collect his 21st save.

Marlins 7, Mets 3, 10 innings

At New York, Mike Stanton hit a grand slam in the 10th inning and the Florida Marlins quickly recovered from Lucas Duda's tying homer with two outs in the ninth.

Mets nemesis Gaby Sanchez drove in two runs and singled to start the decisive rally. Stanton threw out a runner at the plate in the fifth and Florida got seven strong innings from starter Javier Vazquez. The Marlins then took advantage of a defensive mistake by first baseman Daniel Murphy in the 10th.

Sanchez and Hanley Ramirez singled with one out off Jason Isringhausen (2-1). Dewayne Wise followed with a single through the right side and went tearing toward second base, not realizing the runners had held up in front of him.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 2

At Milwaukee, Nyjer Morgan hit a go-

ahead, three-run double and surging Milwaukee scored five runs in the fifth inning off Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter to rally for the win and extend their season-best winning streak to seven.

Milwaukee moved 3 1/2 games ahead of St. Louis in the NL Central, its biggest lead of the season. The Brewers and Cardinals will play 11 more times this year.

Zack Greinke (9-4) allowed a first-inning, two-run homer to Matt Holliday (notes), but the Brewers' offense prevailed again in the second matchup this season of the former Cy Young winners.

Astros 4, Reds 3, 10 innings

At Houston, Rookie Jose Altuve drove in a run on a fielder's choice in the 10th inning to lift new-look Houston past Cincinnati.

The bases were loaded when Altuve hit a hard grounder to Brandon Phillips, who grabbed it and made a throw home from his knees. But catcher Ryan Hanigan couldn't handle the throw, allowing Humberto Quintero to score.

Phillies 4, Rockies 3, 10 innings

At Denver, pinch-hitter John Mayberry Jr. hit a game-tying two-run homer in the ninth inning and Shane Victorino homered to lead off the 10th as Philadelphia won its fourth straight.

Down to their last out and trailing 3-1 in the ninth, the Phillies rallied against Rockies closer Huston Street. Carlos Ruiz hit a two-out double and Mayberry pinch-hit for reliever Michael Stutes.

Dodgers 6, Padres 2

At San Diego, Clayton Kershaw pitched a six-hitter to win his fifth straight start for Los Angeles.

Kershaw (13-4) tied his career high for wins in a season and moved into a tie with Philadelphia's Roy Halladay and Arizona's Ian Kennedy (notes) for the National League lead in wins. The All-Star left-hander allowed two runs while striking out four to add to his league-leading total of 182. He threw 108 pitches, 67 for strikes, walked two for his fourth complete game of the season and fifth of his career.

Matt Kemp doubled, tripled, scored two runs, and drove in his league-leading 83rd run of the season for the Dodgers.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Ian Kennedy struck out seven in eight innings to win his fifth straight start and Arizona beat San Francisco in a matchup of the NL West's top two teams.

Kennedy (13-3) moved into a share of the NL lead for wins with Phillies ace Roy Halladay and Dodgers All-Star Clayton Kershaw. Arizona pulled within one game of the defending World Series champion Giants in the division race.

The Giants, who dropped their fourth straight after being swept in Cincinnati over the weekend, couldn't do enough on an off night by All-Star Matt Cain (9-7). Cain was tagged for five runs in the sixth inning, the first time he has given up five in an inning since Sept. 11, 2008.

Cody Ross and Aubrey Huff each hit solo home runs for San Francisco.

Athletics owner calls for sale of Dodgers

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Oakland Athletics owner Lew Wolff is hopeful that Frank McCourt will soon sell the financially troubled Los Angeles Dodgers so baseball can move forward from the sticky situation.

Wolff, a successful retail developer based in L.A., told The Associated Press on Monday he spoke out publicly on the topic in support of Commissioner Bud Selig, a longtime friend and former fraternity brother at Wisconsin. Wolff first discussed his thoughts in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

"For the good of baseball, I sense that all of us would like to get the Dodger situation behind us for everybody's benefit," Wolff said in a phone interview with the AP on Monday. "I was prompted to do this because of the attorney accusing Bud Selig of taking more money. Bud has been a friend of mine for 50 years. It's just not fair. I was just upset."

The Dodgers filed for bankruptcy protection in June, about two months after Major League Baseball assumed control of the club's day-to-day operations. McCourt blamed a cash-flow crisis on MLB's refusal to approve a multibillion-dollar TV deal McCourt was counting on to keep the franchise afloat.

Selig expressed concern about McCourt using that money toward his "personal needs" in the wake of losing control of the team and the owner's bitter divorce from Jamie McCourt.

Attorneys for McCourt have argued that Selig himself has taken money out of MLB.

"For anyone to seek to diminish Bud's accomplishments in order to rationalize their own actions is, in my opinion, ludicrous and hugely disingenuous," Wolff told the Times. "My hope is that the Dodgers will be sold to a party that will restart this great franchise, and that Frank and his family

will benefit from a positive sale. But to try and equate or compare what Bud Selig has done with the administration of the current Dodger franchise is unsupportable."

Wolff said Monday he didn't want to "go any further than I did in that."

"They're in court. It will get settled," Wolff said. "Bud's done so much for baseball. I feel very strongly that he's the best commissioner in the history of baseball."

Wolff is still waiting for Selig to tell him whether he can go ahead with his proposal to move the A's from Oakland into Santa Clara County even though the San Francisco Giants hold the territorial rights in technology-rich Silicon Valley.

Selig appointed a committee in March 2009 to evaluate the issue facing the Bay Area teams, yet he has provided no timetable for when he might announce a decision.

Agent: Randy Moss retiring from NFL



MANKATO, Minn.
(AP)—Randy Moss dominated when he wanted to dominate.

He scored when he wanted to score, cooperated when he wanted to cooperate and acted out when he wanted to act out.

Moss spent 13 seasons doing things on his own terms, which is why perhaps the loudest career the NFL has ever seen—both in terms of the roars he induced on the field and the aggravation he caused off it—ended so quietly on Monday.

No farewell speech from maybe the most physically gifted receiver to don a helmet. No tearful goodbye from a record-setting performer who changed the way defense is played in the NFL. Just a one-sentence statement from his agent saying one of the most colorful careers in league history was over.

“Randy has weighed his options and considered the offers and has decided to retire,” Joel Segal said on Monday.

It was vintage Moss, a revolutionary talent who was never very much interested in doing things the conventional way.

Fans were awed by his once-in-a-generation blend of size, speed and intelligence. Teammates were charmed by the charisma he showed behind closed doors and coaches were often infuriated by his boorish antics and lack of respect for authority.

“I don’t know if anybody can totally pin down who Randy Moss is,” said Tim DiPiero, one of Moss’ first agents said last year.

If this indeed is the end for Moss, he leaves the game with some of the gaudiest statistics posted by a receiver. His 153 touchdowns are tied with Terrell Owens for second on the career list, and he’s also fifth in yards (14,858) and tied with Hines Ward for eighth in receptions (954).

“In a lot of ways, he was the Michael Jordan of offenses in our league,” Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said. “He was a special player for a long, long time.”

Those numbers, and his status as perhaps the best deep threat in NFL history, will make him a strong candidate for the Hall of Fame. But voters will also be weighing those achievements and his six Pro Bowl seasons against a history of mailing in performances and a reputation as a coach killer.

As Moss himself famously said: “I play when I want to play.”

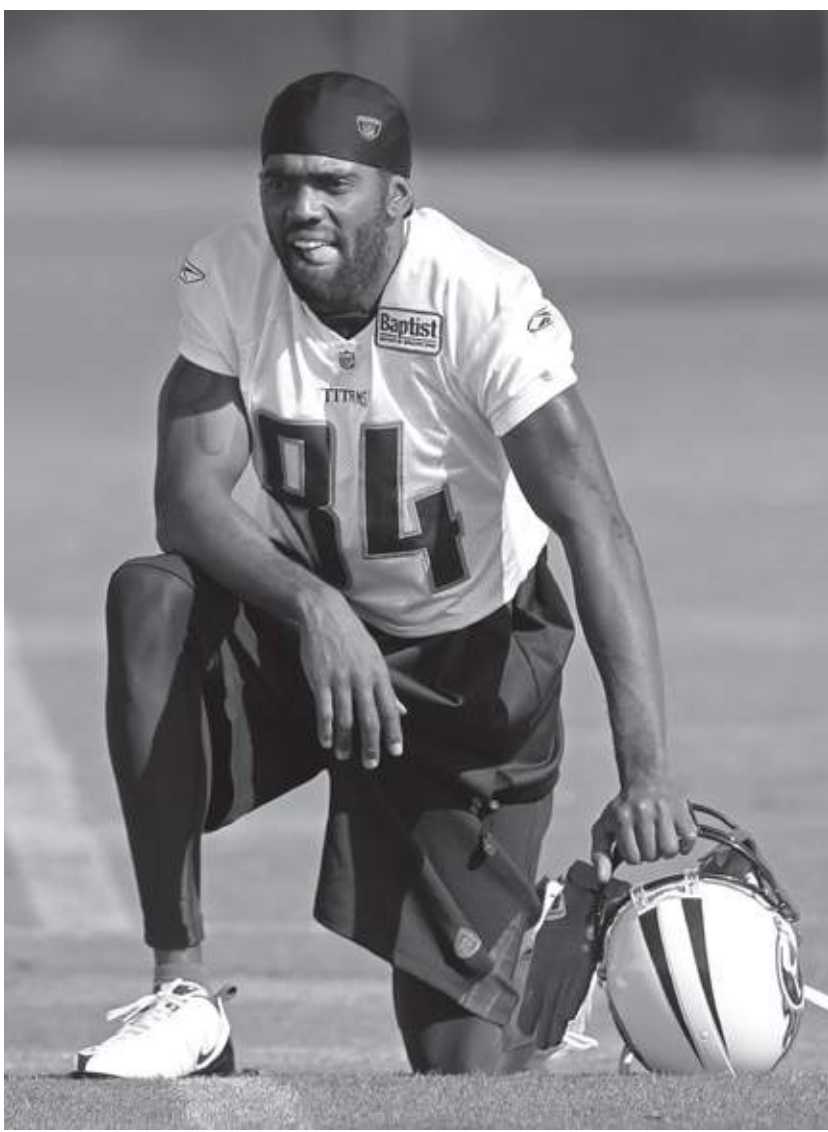
And when he wanted to, there was no one better. And when he didn’t, there was no one more destructive.

Trouble off the field in high school prevented Moss from attending Notre Dame or Florida State, so he landed at Marshall and scored 54 touchdowns in two electrifying seasons with the Thundering Herd.

The character questions hurt Moss in the 1998 draft. He fell to the Vikings at pick No. 21 and he spent the next seven years making every GM in the league who passed on him regret it. He scored 17 touchdowns to help the Vikings reach the NFC title game, a season so overpowering that the rival Packers used their first three picks in the following April’s draft on cornerbacks to try to slow him down.

Didn’t do much good. Moss scored at least 10 touchdowns in all but one season in his first tour with the Vikings.

“The things I’ve seen him do, I don’t think I’ll ever see another player do the things he did,” Vikings tight end Jim Kleinsasser said. “Great career. Tough



This Nov. 10, 2010, file photo shows Tennessee Titans wide receiver Randy Moss during NFL football practice, in Nashville, Tenn. Moss is calling it a career after 13 seasons in the NFL.

to see him not playing because I think he had a lot left out there that he could have done for somebody.”

He also got into several controversies along the way, bumping a traffic cop in downtown Minneapolis, squirting a referee with a water bottle during a game and leaving the field early in a game against Washington, just to name a few.

Sensing a change of scenery was needed, the Vikings traded Moss to Oakland in 2005, where he spent two quiet seasons before his career was revived in New England. He re-emerged as a force with the Patriots, hauling in a single-season record 23 TD passes from Tom Brady to help the Patriots reach the Super Bowl.

Vikings fans were euphoric at the news of his return last season, but things soured in a hurry. He caught 13 passes for 174 yards and two touchdowns in four games back in purple, clashed with coach Brad Childress in the locker room and brought embarrassment to the organization when he berated a caterer at team headquarters.

He hugged former Patriots teammates after a Vikings loss, and then bizarrely stepped to a podium to fawn over the Patriots, criticize the Vikings for ignoring his strategic advice, and announce his plan to interview himself the rest of the season instead of letting reporters do it.

An enraged Childress unilaterally decided to cut Moss shortly after, a decision that helped seal his fate with Vikings ownership.

Moss finished the season with eight games in Tennessee, but only caught

six passes. Segal said earlier this summer that the receiver was training hard and determined to prove to the doubters that he could still dominate the game like he had in the past.

The Jets were believed to have some interest in Moss, but Segal declined to elaborate on the options that were available.

“Randy has been a great player for a long time,” said Bob Pruett, Moss’ college coach at Marshall. “He’s choosing this on his own terms and I think that’s good. If that’s what he wants to do, that’s what he should do.”

While many grapple with what Moss’ legacy will be, there is no denying the impact he had on the game. The Cover 2 defense has become a fashionable scheme over the past 10 years, and it was designed in large part to prevent Moss from burning opposing defensive backs for long TDs.

“He’s a guy who changed defenses,” Vikings cornerback Antoine Winfield said. “You had to put two defenders on him to take him out of the game so it opened up the rest of the offense. Great guy, great teammate, I have a lot of respect for him, he’s brought a lot to this game and I wish him well.”

Whether the 34-year-old Moss is truly done is anyone’s guess. That, of course, appears to be completely up to him.

“He’s one of the best receivers of all time to play this game,” Vikings receiver Percy Harvin said. “I’m sure he hung it up with no regrets, so I wish the best for him. He had a great career and did a lot of great things.”

Stern says nothing to be encouraged about in NBA talks



NEW YORK (AP)—David Stern returned to the bargaining table Monday and said “nothing” gave him reason for encouragement.

And for that, the NBA Commissioner pointed the blame in one place.

“I don’t feel optimistic about the players’ willingness to engage in a serious way,” Stern said.

So the first meeting to include leadership from owners and players since the lockout began exactly a month ago produced nothing new—except blame.

A downcast Stern, who long maintained he was optimistic during this collective bargaining process, said that was no longer the case. He added nothing had changed since the last meeting on June 30, hours before the old deal expired, and said he doesn’t feel players are bargaining in good faith.

Players contend that although owners insist they are committed to making a deal, their proposals say otherwise.

Neither side offered a new one Monday, exactly three months before the Nov. 1 scheduled opening of the regular season that seems more in doubt than ever.

Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver were joined by San Antonio owner Peter Holt, who heads the labor relations committee, and Board of Governors chairman and Minnesota owner Glen Taylor.

Players’ association Executive Director Billy Hunter, and President Derek Fisher and Vice President Theo Ratliff, both of the Lakers, attended along with union attorneys.

“It’s a tough position to be in,” Fisher said. “I think Peter, Glen Taylor, Commissioner Stern, Adam Silver are articulating certain things in the room, expressing their desire to get a deal done, but where their proposal lies makes it hard to believe that.”

“So we’re continuing to try to work around what’s been said and really focus on the deal on the table, and right now we’re still a very, very long way from getting a deal done.”

Stern disputed Fisher’s take on the owners’ actions.

“He’s entitled to draw his own conclusion,” Stern said. “We have absolutely the opposite take on it.”

Fisher said the sides would try to meet at least two or three more times in August. Stern said there is always reason to have meetings, yet made it clear owners feel not enough is happening during them.

“Right now we haven’t seen any movement,” he said, adding “there’s still a very wide gap between us.”

That was left over from late June. Owners are seeking massive changes to the league’s salary structure, saying they lost \$300 million last season and hundreds of millions more in each year of the previous CBA, which was ratified in 2005.

Players have acknowledged losses but dispute they’re as large as owners say, and have balked at the league’s desire to institute a hard salary cap, slash salaries and reduce the maximum length of contracts.

That has created the possibility of lost games because of a work stoppage for only the second time in league history.

The 1998-99 season was reduced to 50 games, and players have been preparing for the potential of something similar, with many saying they would consider playing overseas to have a paycheck.

The NFL is back to work after settling its lockout that lasted about four months without missing any regular-season games. A work stoppage of similar length guarantees the NBA loses games, but the NBA’s issues seem to go much deeper than the NFL’s.

“From where we sit, we’re looking at a league that was the most profitable in sports that became more profitable by virtue of concessions from their players,” Stern said, “and with an average salary of \$2 million. Our average salary is 5 million, we’re not profitable and we just can’t seem to get over the gap that separates us.”

The central issue remains the division of basketball revenues. Players were guaranteed 57 percent under the old agreement and the league says it cannot address its losses without a significant change to that number.

The players offered a reduction to 54.3 percent that would have reduced their take by about \$100 million a year—an offer Stern called “modest”—and said the owners’ proposal would have them well below 40 percent in the later years of the deal.

Hunter indicated after the last meeting that the sides might bargain on something besides economics when they returned, since they couldn’t get past that hurdle. They tried, but everything always comes back to money.

“You can only go so long discussing non-economic or system issues,”

Fisher said.

“Hard salary cap, flex cap, soft cap, eventually it all brings you back to what’s the split and that’s going to be the hard work that’s ahead of us over the next several weeks, is how to get to a place where the split is where we consider to be fair for our players but also makes an attempt to address the concerns and the issues that owners are putting out.”

Owners had proposed a deal that would guarantee players total compensation of no less than \$2 billion annually, with an average player salary of about \$5 million. But that represents a pay cut from the more than \$2.1 billion players were paid this season.

Players have argued that owners can address their losses through an expanded revenue sharing system without taking so much from them. Owners quickly dismissed their last proposal, saying it would have raised the average salary to \$7 million in the sixth year of the deal.

Fisher said the union is still not thinking about decertification, the tactic the NFLPA used. The NBPA has filed an unfair labor charge against the league with the National Labor Relations Board claiming unfair bargaining practices and is awaiting that decision before doing anything.

Both sides seem to feel the answers come at the bargaining table, not in the court system.

“There isn’t anything new or any type of blockbuster idea or momentum that was created today, which is why we’ve all agreed we have to meet more, talk more and discuss more so we can try and figure this thing out,” Fisher said.

Hocog tops RGA August Ace qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Carl Hocog moved closer to winning the Refaluwasch Golf Association August Ace after ruling a qualifying tournament last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

The 12-handicapper Hocog tamed the Marpi course with his 38 and 43 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 81 and net 69. If his net 69 is unbeaten in the August tournament later this month, he gets to keep the monthly Ace and qualify for the RGA Club Championship.

Hocog prevailed over 11 other RGA members, winning by five strokes against new member Eric Lizama. Lizama had a 50 on the front and 48 on the back for a gross 98 and deducting his 24 handicap, he ended up with a net 74. Completing the Top 3 was Tars Olopai, who carded a net 76. The 5-handicapper Olopai shot a 40 and 41 on the front and back nines for a gross 81 and defeated



Carl Hocog, seen here putting a pin for his ball, won the RGA August Ace qualifying tournament held last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

Joe Demapan in the scorecard tiebreak in the first nine holes.

Olopai had a net 37.5 on the front nine against Demapan's 39.5. The 11-handicapper Demapan logged a 45 on the front and 42 on the back for a gross 87 in his debut with RGA.

Other club members who joined the August Ace qualifier with their net scores in parenthesis were Ulysis Kapileo (79), Asterio Tawanpiy (79), Tony Rogolifoi (83), Ray Tigilau (82), Tom Tebuteb (85), Joe Saures (79), Dwaine Stephens (82), and Manny Mangarero (81).

Tigilau won the closest to

the pin contest on hole No. 6, while Olopai had the same feat on No. 12.

Meanwhile, RGA is encouraging its members to join this weekend's Tournament of Champions.

The club is also reminding monthly winners to compete in at least six RGA events to qualify for the club championship in December.

RGA is still accepting members at \$25 annually. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Olopai at 483-5508, Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129.

RANGAMAR

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building of core skills or general skills used in many sports and are developed using multi-skills approach. By cultivating a proper base of fundamental motor skills in a simple and healthy environment filled with tons of fun, kids will be energetic and encouraged to live a more active life," Rangamar added.

The fundamental stage is for girls in the 6 to 8 age group and 6 to 9 in the boys. The last four stages are learning to train (for girls 8 to 11 and boys 9 to 12); training to train (girls 11 to 15 and boys 12 to 16); training to compete (girls 15 to 17 and boys 16 to 18); and training to win (girls over 17 and boys over 18).

"Fundamental movement skills should be practiced and mastered before sport-specific skills are introduced. The development of these skills will contribute significantly to future athletic achievements and equip young people with the confidence to participate in sports and physical activities. Too many trainers and coaches train kids as if they are adults. However, performing advanced exercises, drills, and games that are beyond a child's structural and neuro-

logical abilities could have long term effects to their physical and mental developments," the long-time coach added.

To jumpstart the grassroots program, Rangamar will be holding Cultura Athletics Youth Camp, beginning next week at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

The camp will run from Aug. 8 to 21 and will be for boys and girls in the 8 to 12 and 13 to 15 age groups. The camp for 8 to 12 age group will focus on developing motor skills in a simple, healthy, and fun environment. Participants will be taught movement skills through situations and games using "guided discovery." Then for the 13 to 15, participants will learn proper warm-up routine, drills, flexibility, and training for sprints, jumps, throws, and middle-distance training. They will also discover starts, hand-offs, and racing strategies for specific events.

The camp for 8 to 12 age group will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4pm to 5:30pm, while sessions for the 13 to 15 division will take place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, also from 4pm to 5:30pm. Camp fee is only \$25.

For more information, contact Rangamar at eli_rang@yahoo.com or call 235-1775.

TOUGH

From Page 28

77 points. Points were given to the respective squads based on how their players finished in the U12, U15, and U18 divisions.

"It will be very difficult to win the POJC again, as even though we won last year, the West will still be the favorite in next week's tournament. It will be a big challenge for the North team and our CNMI players to beat the West squad anew," CNMI coach Jeff Race said

when asked about the North's chances on its title defense bid.

As for the individual competition, Race believed the CNMI will be the favorite in the U12 division, as the Commonwealth has Ackerman, Rastguiy, and Dela Cruz. Race added that Miller has a strong chance in the U15 category.

"Tammy and Negahr are in the Top 3 in the girls U12 and Carl has really stepped up his game. Christian was undefeated in the pool play in U15 last year and almost finished No. 1 if not for a loss to a New Caledonia

player," Race said.

In the U18 division, Race said the field will be very competitive and he hopes that Thea Minor and Jones' training in Fiji will help them survive tough games next week. The two U18 players left Saipan early July to join a Junior ITF event in Fiji and stayed there to train and wait for their teammates for the POJC.

"I believe in individual competitions, we will face big challenges but we will do well, as our players have been training hard the past months," the CNMI coach added.

Race was off-island for about a month, leaving the Commonwealth netters to train on their won for several weeks. He then resumed the group training last Monday. "I am just fine-tuning their games, as some players have been training with former CNMI players Bobby Cruz and Peter Loyola. I am focusing on strengthening their mental toughness to prepare them for the intense competition," Race said.

Race and the nine other CNMI junior players will leave Saipan for Fiji this Friday.

KOREAN

From Page 28

clock, Sang Ho Choi made it to the scoreboard to seal the win.

Wild Bill's lone goal in the second half was courtesy of Thoensaket.

Red Inter 7, Thundercats 4

In the other men's division match, Red Inter topped the Thundercats, 7-4.

The win was Inter's second in four games, while the Thundercats absorbed their fourth loss in

as many matches.

Peter Houk and Dale Roberts led Red Inter's victory, as they knocked in two goals apiece. Roberts and Houk nailed one goal each in the first half and Red Inter also drew one goal apiece from Arkie Reusora and Sugura Takahashi for a 4-2 halftime lead. Lin Zhi Peng and Joel Fruit scored for the Thundercats.

In the second half, Houk and Roberts still found the back of the net, while Edwin Cruz also lit up the scoreboard. Evert Van Der Mass and Timothy Tawanpiy had one goal apiece for the

Thundercats in the second half.

WOMEN'S IT&E Awesome 6, IT&E Blossom 1

In the battle of sister teams, IT&E Awesome showed no love lost to IT&E Blossom, 6-1.

Natalie Hill was unstoppable for IT&E Awesome, as she recorded four goals in the game to give her team a 2-2 record. Nola Hix added two goals, while Fedora and Connie Camacho and Carrie Schuler made one each.

IT&E Blossom, which now has a dismal 0-4 record, got its

lone goal from Felicia Debrum.

Kulet's Team 2, Mellow Yellow 1

In the second women's game, Kulet's Team barged into the win column after beating Mellow Yellow, 2-1.

Windy Orcine put Kulet's Team (1-2) in the scoreboard in the first half and Mellow Yellow's Jovelyn Banag also drilled a goal for the equalizer. Then Priscilla Norman showed up for the second half and logged the game-winning goal.

The loss was Mellow Yellow's second in four games.

GUAM

From Page 28

ested takers can contact me directly, message my Facebook page, or shoot me an email at the Trench Tech website," Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said.

For Sarusal's training team to accept the match, her opponent must be confirmed by Aug. 15 or three weeks before the event. Alvarez added aspiring lo-

cal male fighters from Tinian and Saipan are wanted to help Trench Tech form exciting matchups for a prolific list of Guam athletes coming for Onra.

Fifteen Guam MMA fighters from Team Guam Muay Thai K-1 and Team Counter Shot have expressed interest in making the trip over for Trench Tech's fourth unarmed combat event of the year.

Muay Thai K-1 fighters include bantamweights Justin Dizon and Daniel Dee (both

130-140lbs), lightweights Jared Martin and Matt Arruejo (both 145-155lbs), welterweight Robin Young (155-165lbs), and middleweights Rom Garganera II (165-180lbs), Jesse Bunang (all 165-185lbs), Aaron Vegamora and Jason Toves (both 175-185lbs). All fighters are first-time amateur K-1 kick boxers.

Team Counter Shot's fighters include K-1 flyweights John Garcia (125lb) and Jared Santos (120lb), K-1 featherweight Vaughn Laguana (145lb), light-

weight boxer Brandon Payne (150lb), MMA bantamweight Kevin Miranda (135lb) and MMA light-heavyweight Mr. Matt (190lb).

Venue for ROP 11: Onra has yet to be decided.

To sign up, contact Alvarez at (670)-483-4MMA (4662), email trenchwarriorsaipan@yahoo.com, visit www.facebook.com/cukialvarez or visit www.trenchtech.tv and submit a message, which will be forwarded to Alvarez.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	66	41	.617	—
New York	65	42	.607	1
Tampa Bay	56	51	.523	10
Toronto	55	53	.509	11 1/2
Baltimore	42	63	.400	23

Central Division

Detroit	57	51	.528	—
Cleveland	54	52	.509	2
Chicago	52	55	.486	4 1/2
Minnesota	50	58	.463	7
Kansas City	46	62	.426	11

West Division

Texas	61	48	.560	—
Los Angeles	59	50	.541	2
Oakland	49	60	.450	12
Seattle	46	62	.426	14 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	69	39	.639	—
Atlanta	63	47	.573	7
New York	55	54	.505	14 1/2
Florida	54	55	.495	15 1/2
Washington	52	56	.481	17

Central Division

Milwaukee	61	49	.555	—
St. Louis	57	52	.523	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	54	53	.505	5 1/2
Cincinnati	53	56	.486	7 1/2
Chicago	44	65	.404	16 1/2
Houston	36	73	.330	24 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	61	48	.560	—
Arizona	60	49	.550	1
Colorado	51	58	.468	10
Los Angeles	49	59	.454	11 1/2
San Diego	47	63	.427	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 9, Boston 6
N.Y. Yankees 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Seattle 8, Oakland 4
Washington 5, Atlanta 3
Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 3
Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 3, 10 innings
Houston 4, Cincinnati 3, 10 innings
Milwaukee 6, St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 4, Colorado 3, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 6, San Diego 2
Arizona 5, San Francisco 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PBA-Budweiser Bowler of the Year/Classified Tournament Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The monthly winners in the Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Tournament pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony last month at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.



PBA-Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament runner-up Richard Leong poses for a photo with his trophy.



PBA-Budweiser Bowler of the Year/Classified Tournament third placer Raymond Zapanta shows his trophy and cash prize.



2010-2011 Bowler of the Year Paul Pangelinan shows his trophy.



PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament Class A Top 3 finishers, from left, third placer Raymond Zapanta, champion Robert Talavera, and runner-up Richard Leong.



Andrew Sablan receives the runner-up trophy in Class B of the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament.



Joe Sto. Domingo smiles after getting his third place trophy in Class B of the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament.



Ben Aizon wins the third place trophy in Class C of the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament.



Rene Cariasos smiles after getting the runner-up trophy in Class C of the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament.



Ronald Batac poses with his championship trophy in Class C of the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament.

**Sabathia earns
MLB-best
16th win**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Agent:
Randy Moss
retiring
from NFL**

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28 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tough job for CNMI jr. netters



Negahr Rastguir stretches for a return shot from the backline during a local tournament in April this year at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts. Negahr and 10 other CNMI netters will be competing in next week's 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

Eleven CNMI junior tennis players will have a difficult mission next week when they compete in the 2011 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.



The Commonwealth's Carl Dela Cruz, Moris Villanueva, Negahr Rastguir, Tammy Ackerman, Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Melody Johnson, Mikayla Lopez, Rafael Jones, and Thea and Theecel Minor will be suiting up for the

North Pacific Team and battle the West and East squads in the POJC that will run from Aug. 8 to 12 at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre.

The CNMI netters-led North team will be going for a title defense after stunning the strong West squad last year, 131-128. The East team placed third with

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Korean Futsal hands Wild Bill's first loss

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REPORTER

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL
Korean Futsal Team pulled off an 8-6 comeback win over Wild Bill in an intense men's division game in the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Coming into the match, Korean Futsal and Wild Bill's shared identical 3-0 marks and the opposing teams played a bit physical in their bids to keep their records clean. Wild Bill's had the upper hand in the first half, 5-3, behind the hat-trick of Jeeraphong Thoensaket and two goals of Jiayuan Gueo.

Gil Chong Koo drilled all the three goals of Korean Futsal in the first half and Wild Bill's defense failed to neutralize him in the second half. Koo added



A Kulet's Team striker, left, kicks the ball, while Mellow Yellow goalie Noi Horey dives for a save during their game in a futsal league Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

three more goals in the second half, including an impressive shot from the left side. The perfect play started from the cen-

ter and Koo received the pass and did not even bother to put the leather down the floor, as he kicked it and hit his target.

Koo's notable goal gave Korean Futsal a 7-6 lead and with less than two minutes left on the

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Rangamar launches athletics program

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REPORTER

International Association of Athletics Federations academy coach Elias Rangamar is introducing a grassroots program in the CNMI.

"After years of working with national elite athletes in local, regional, and international tournament, I have decided to start a grassroots program for athletics. Cultura Athletics will focus on a program model called LTAD or Long Term Athlete Develop-

ment," said Rangamar, who is also the national coach of the IAAF-affiliated Northern Marianas Athletics.

Rangamar said LTAD is designed to help prepare young people in engaging in a healthy and life-long participation in sports and physical activities and reaching their full potentials.

"The LTAD model progresses through a series of stage, beginning with what is called the FUNdamental stages. This is based on upon the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Elias Rangamar, left, is seen in a file photo giving instructions to Leroy Rangamar in preparation for a hurdles training session at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility.

Guam female fighter wants slot in ROP 11

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH Dededo Boxing Club's Gianna "GiaBaby" Sarusal is interested in competing in Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Rites of Passage 11: Onra scheduled for Sept. 9.

The Guam female fighter from Agana Heights is only 18 years old, stands at 5'6", weighs 133lb, and trains at the Lights Out Gym. Sarusal holds a 1-1 record with her victory coming via knockout.

"We are still looking for an opponent for Gia. Any inter-

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Sarusal